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Sports Pg 14

Petitclerc nabs 5th gold at Paralympic Games

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AT Starlight CASINO
See Page 19 for details.

JEFF VINNICK/CITY OF RICHMOND

Speed skater Brock Miron tests the ice at the under-construction Olympic ice oval in Richmond yesterday. Miron, along with national team members Jeremy Wotherspoon, Denny Morrison, Kristina Groves and Clara Hughes, provided feedback on ice conditions.

Oval 'just incredible'

ANDREA WOO
for Metro Vancouver

Members of Canada's national speed skating team were at the Richmond Oval yesterday, testing the ice of what will arguably be the premier venue during the 2010 Winter Games.

Denny Morrison, who took home a silver medal in team pursuit at the 2006 Winter Games in Turin, said the oval was unlike any other he has seen before.

"A lot of ovals are just an ice rink with sort of a boxy building around it," said the Fort St. John native. "This oval is aesthetically pleasing. You walk in and look up at the ceiling and see the arches and the woodworking they've done and it's just incredible."

Morrison said the ice also felt nicer and faster than he had expected.

The oval's curved roof, designed in the shape of a stylized heron's wing, is a tribute to the Salish First Nation.

The building will open to the public in December. It will host its first major sports competition — the Canadian Single Distance Championships — on Dec. 27. It seats an estimated 8,000 people.

After the Olympics, it will be converted into a multi-use facility that will include two ice rinks, a track and a gymnasium.

Suspect turns himself in

SHOOTING The man accused of shooting and killing a young cancer survivor's puppy on Quadra Island turned himself in to Westshore RCMP Monday, though he refused to give a formal statement, saying only that it was an accident.

Cody Wellard, 31, will appear in a Campbell River court on Oct. 13. RCMP are seeking one charge of careless use of a firearm and one charge of endangering an animal.

The 14-week-old Jack Russell terrier belonged to Max Rose, a 12-year-old who battled cancer. Max's father, Nick, believes that Wellard deliberately shot the dog.

ANDREA WOO
/FOR METRO VANCOUVER

Groups set for Taser inquiry

BRAIDWOOD Poland's Vancouver consulate will be among the groups participating in the upcoming Braidwood Inquiry into the death of Polish immigrant Robert Dziekanski, commissioner Thomas Braidwood ruled yesterday.

In October 2007, Dziekanski was Tasered by RCMP at Vancouver International Airport. He later died. The incident drew international news coverage.

Among the groups participating in the Oct. 20 inquiry into his death are Dziekanski's mother Zofia Ciscowski, the Republic of Poland's Vancouver consulate and Taser International.

METRO VANCOUVER

Election 2008 pages 8,9
- Harper vows to push agenda
- Dion unveils drug plan in Atlantic Canada
- Heard on the Street
- NDP want bank review

Celebrity page 38
Sienna's 'affair' angers her fans

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Sechelt bus driver wins lottery
Glen Bell, 52, a bus driver from Sechelt, won Saturday's Lotto 6/49 jackpot of $4.3 million. As he travelled to Richmond from the Sunshine Coast to claim his prize he learned that his father-in-law passed away. METRO VANCOUVER

Local

Wire thieves knock out phones

About 600 homes in Aldergrove lost phone service yesterday morning when thieves severed an overhead telephone line to sell copper wire for scrap. CBC.CA/BC

News in brief

BIKES B.C. will get $31 million in new cycling infrastructure like bike lanes and lockers, the province said yesterday. The investment, which the province says is one of the largest B.C. has ever made in cycling, will help make cycling a more attractive to commuters.

RAISES The province's sheriffs and correction officers will receive pay raises of about 10 per cent after reaching an agreement with B.C.'s government. Under the deal, correctional officers will make $29.58 per hour and deputy sheriffs will make $28.71 per hour, according to the B.C. Government and Service Employees' Union. METRO NEWS SERVICE

metronews.ca
What's online today.

Watch Stéphane Dion step up his attacks on Stephen Harper while tamping down dissent in his party at www.metronews.ca/canada
Go on patrol with Canadians in Afghanistan and learn why the military's motto could be "hurry up and wait" at www.metronews.ca/canada

ANDREA WOO/FOR METRO VANCOUVER

Liberal candidates Michelle Hassen (New Westminster — Coquitlam) and Ujjal Dosanjh (Vancouver — South) unveil the first phase of the party's "Made in B.C." agenda yesterday.

Grits promise gangs taskforce as part of 'Made in B.C.' plan

CAMPAIGN The creation of a "guns and gangs" taskforce was among the promises announced yesterday as Stéphane Dion's Liberal B.C. team unveiled its "Made in B.C." agenda.

The recommendation is part of "Building a Just Society in B.C.," the first of three phases of the Grits' agenda.

" 'Building a Just Society in B.C.' was developed after consultations with people from across the province," said Liberal candidate Ujjal Dosanjh (Vancouver — South).

Dosanjh said the idea for the task force, which would combat gang-related violence with some help from the federal government, spawned from the concerns of many British Columbians over crime.

The team also recommended a ban of military-style assault weapons, upholding spousal notification rules for gun purchases and new measures to track guns coming across the border.

Other proposals in this first phase include erecting an "India gate" in the Punjabi markets in Vancouver and Surrey, investing in more accessible childcare and fighting to keep Insite open. ANDREA WOO/ FOR METRO VANCOUVER

Dropping all for kids

KRISTEN THOMPSON
kristen.thompson@metronews.ca

If you thought you saw superheroes rappelling down a downtown office tower yesterday, your eyes weren't deceiving you.

Nearly 100 people donned tights and capes and descended a 20-storey building on Hastings Street to raise money for disabled children at Easter Seals' houses and camps in B.C.

Nicola Law, 30, and Kimberly Dodge, 31, were part of team Dodge 'n the Law, dressed as a thief and police officer, respectively.

"(It's) something I've done in the past, helping children with disabilities, and this is just another way to help them," said Law.

"(I did it) for the adrenaline rush," said Dodge, adding that her boyfriend's niece has spina bifida.

Jenny Hubbard, with the B.C. Lions Society For Children With Disabilities, said all participants are super heroes to the children they are helping.

RAFE ARNOTT/METRO VANCOUVER

Nicola Law prepares to rappel 20 floors along West Hastings Street to raise funds for Easter Seals B.C. yesterday.

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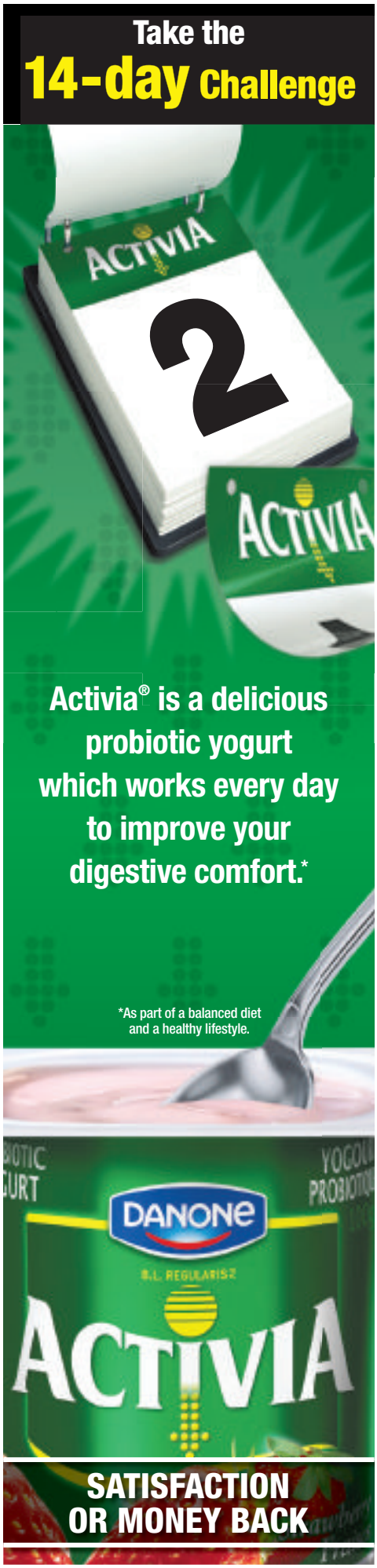
Kids find ways to get junk food

Some students in Burnaby have been caught selling candy out of their lockers to get around the new junk food ban in B.C. schools. Others say they simply go to the corner store to get their sweet fix. **NEWS1130.COM**



First unconventional beauty pageant winner honoured

KRISTEN THOMPSON
kristen.thompson@metronews.ca

It's been 20 years since the first Mr. Gay Canada was crowned in Vancouver, and tomorrow the organizers of the competition will pay tribute to him at the event's kick-off at Celebrities Nightclub.

Event organizer Terry Costa said the unconventional beauty pageant hasn't been held since 1987, and that honouring the late Dean Ryane is a way of measuring the progress that's been made in gay rights since then.

"We're looking for the most outgoing, well-spoken (delegate) … who can go anywhere and represent our country," said Costa.

The winner, who will be chosen Sept. 20, will represent Canada at the International Mr. Gay competition in California and act as an advocate for the community, promoting respect, equality and awareness.

Aaron Ursacki, 29, one of 10 delegates competing in the contest, said Vancouver tends to be an accepting city, but added he was surprised by some of the negative feedback he's heard about the event.

"This contest is needed, obviously, from a lot of these comments," he said, adding that one person called it a slap in God's face.

Ursacki he wants to debunk myths and stereotypes about gay men and to humanize the community to those who are still threatened by it.

Mr. Gay Canada

- The contest will be held in Whistler, and includes photo to shoots, public speaking and a mountaintop eco-challenge.
- Delegates will be judged 15 per cent on appearance and 85 per cent on character and leadership.

RAFE ARNOTT/METRO VANCOUVER

Aaron Ursacki, left, and Tym Roders, are two of 10 delegates from Vancouver competing in the Mr. Gay Canada competition that starts tomorrow.

B.C. favoured by Asian traders

KRISTEN THOMPSON
kristen.thompson@metronews.ca

British Columbia has become the preferred gateway for trade between Asia and western North America and the province will be investing in ports and transportation corridors to capitalize on that fact.

Falcon

Kevin Falcon, who spoke to the Canada China Business Council in Vancouver yesterday, said a new partnership between the province and various industry partners is overseeing a $15 billion expansion of local port, rail, road and airport facilities.

"(They) are taking action to eliminate bottlenecks and congestion, ensuring connections between transportation modes are fast and efficient," he said.

"We're talking about the potential of 50,000 (new) jobs over the next couple of decades."

Falcon added there's also the potential for more than $3 billion in gross domestic product growth for Canada.

"This is Canada's opportunity, British Columbia just happens to have some great real estate," he said.

Far East fact

- China is B.C.'s second largest trading partner, according to the Ministry of Transportation.

ShareYourViews
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Numbers show homelessness still rising in Vancouver

ANDREA WOO
for Metro Vancouver

The findings of last March's homelessness count were released yesterday, confirming what is no surprise to locals: homelessness is on the rise.

The count, done by the Greater Vancouver Regional Steering Committee (RSCH), showed that there were at least 2,660 homeless people on the streets of Metro Vancouver during the 24 hours in which it was conducted.

The total number of homeless people in Vancouver, however, is likely much higher.

"Considering that 24-hour point-in-time counts inherently undercount the homeless, the numbers in the report tell us that the region is experiencing a continued growth in homelessness," said Alice Sundberg, co-chair of the RSCH, in a statement.

"The region is experiencing a continued growth in homelessness." Alice Sundberg

The report also found that homeless people in the region increased by an estimated 22 per cent since 2005 and 137 per cent since the first count in 2002.

Street homelessness increased by 40 per cent since 2005 and by 373 per cent since 2002.

Aboriginal people represented 32 per cent of all homeless people surveyed, despite making up only two per cent of the region's population.

More Para Games on TV in 2010

VIEWING Organizers of the 2010 Olympics want to expand TV coverage of the Paralympic Games to the widest possible audience, the organizers for the upcoming Vancouver games said yesterday during a summary of their findings from the 2008 Paralympics in Beijing.

The 2008 Paralympics were broadcast on China Central Television continuously throughout the Games, resulting in increased attendance and awareness.

Vanoc is in discussions with worldwide television networks for the broadcast rights, and promises that the 2010 Paralympics will be produced in high-definition. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

News in brief

POLITICS Provincial New Democrats are calling for an investigation into whether or not the premier's office interfered by choosing schools in Gordon Campbell's own riding for seismic upgrades over high-risk schools in a new $30-million program. Two of three schools chosen for Neighbourhoods of Learning program were from Campbell's Point Grey riding.

METRO VANCOUVER

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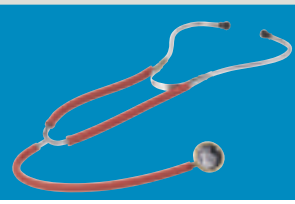
N.B. death confirmed as result of listeriosis

An elderly New Brunswick woman is the 17th person whose death has been linked to the same strain of the bacteria that caused a countrywide recall of Maple Leaf Foods products, health officials confirmed yesterday. **CBC NEWS ONLINE**

Canada



B.C. second in health care

British Columbia's health care system finished second in the inaugural Canada Health Consumer Index released yesterday. The index is based on measurements such as wait times, health outcomes and value for spending. Newfoundland finished last, despite spending the second most dollars per person. Ontario finished first overall based on the set of consumer-oriented indicators. CBC NEWS ONLINE

Toronto teen shot outside school

Student rushed to hospital with life-threatening injuries

A 16-year-old student is in critical condition in hospital after he was shot outside a Toronto high school, yesterday.

According to Toronto Police Chief Bill Blair, the 16-year-old was involved in an altercation "with a number of young men" when one pulled out a gun, fired and hit Taimone Moore in the abdomen.

By the time police arrived, Moore had fled inside before collapsing in a pool of blood in the main hallway. Blair said the teen was rushed to Sunnybrook Hospital with life-threatening injuries and is now listed in critical condition.

Dozens of students witnessed the brazen attack.

Meanwhile, Moore's on-again-off-again girlfriend of two years was walking to McDonald's with her friend in a different part of the city.

"We got a text message. First it said that someone had been shot at Bendale," said 19-year-old Courtney. "Then another, 'Yo Taimone'... I knew what it meant. I burst into tears."

TARA WALTON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

18-year-old Stephanie Hendrie is reunited with her mother Heather yesterday afternoon outside of a Toronto high school that was in lockdown mode after the afternoon shooting of a student.

Despite the launch of a Toronto-wide pilot project this week which saw police officers stationed at 28 schools across the city, Moore's school never made the list. Speaking to the media in front of the school, Blair said the presence of officers would have made little difference.

"The presence of police is a deterrent for most people but there is no guarantee even if there are police in schools."
Police chief Bill Blair

"I'm not sure that would have helped," said Blair.

"The presence of police is a deterrent for most people, but there is no guarantee even if there are police in schools."

A person of interest was taken into custody for questioning around 4:30 p.m., but police have not released the name of the suspect.

At least three other males were involved in the fight and ran away after the shooting. They are being sought by police.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

U.S. pushes Khadr trial to Nov. 10

WAR CRIMES The U.S. military has reset the Guantanamo war-crimes tribunal of Canadian Omar Khadr for Nov. 10, meaning his murder trial will be delayed until after federal elections in Canada and the United States.

Omar Khadr

Khadr's trial was scheduled to begin on Oct. 8, but a military judge postponed it this month amid defence complaints that the government failed to turn over evidence.

The November trial date was announced yesterday for the Toronto-born Khadr, who was 15 when captured after a firefight at a suspected al-Qaida compound in Afghanistan and accused of throwing a grenade that killed a U.S. soldier. REUTERS

Edmonton struggling with syphilis outbreak

ANDREAS MORSE
for Metro Canada

SEX Health officials need to be more aggressive in tackling a syphilis outbreak in the Edmonton region, said a high-ranking doctor who specializes in infectious diseases.

"The current outbreak has really got a foothold in the community"
Dr. Barb Romanowski

"The syphilis outbreak in Alberta and other parts of Canada and North America continues," said Dr. Barbara Romanowski, a specialist of infectious diseases at the University of Alberta, during a speech to health care professionals.

"This current outbreak has really got a foothold in the community."

In 2007 there were 255 cases in the province, forcing Capital Health to kick off an awareness campaign urging people to practice safer sex. Syphilis is sexually transmitted by vaginal, anal or oral contact. If left untreated, it could cause blindness, deafness, paralysis and brain or heart disease. Romanowski said getting on top of an outbreak like this isn't always easy. "Two hundred and fifty-five is a huge number of cases," she said.

News in brief

SOLDIERS CLEARED Canadian soldiers involved in the shooting deaths of two Afghan children near Kandahar in July did nothing wrong and followed proper procedures, a military police investigation concluded yesterday.

CAT KILLED Someone set a cat on fire, killing it in Lower Sackville, N.S., RCMP said yesterday. RCMP said a man was awakened by a bright flash and saw that it was a cat on fire. The RCMP are investigating.

METRO CANADA

Radio show putting blind love to test

CANDICE WARD
for Metro Canada

PROMOTION No first date, no first kiss, and no meeting the parents — at least not before the wedding.

One of Calgary's newest radio stations, Energy 101.5 FM, is out there to prove that love is truly blind with their latest social experiment, 2 Strangers and a Wedding.

"This is not a cheesy radio promotion. This is not a stunt. This is a social experiment," said program director Rob Mise.

The station is encouraging men and women in Calgary who have been unsuccessful in finding love and genuinely desire to be married to apply.

"We are not saying caller six wins a wedding," said Mise, adding they want to find the perfect love connection.

Although there will be no exchange of livestock in this untraditional arranged marriage, the station is taking this possible union seriously. and taking precautions to ensure the safety of all parties involved including an extensive screening process and lie detector test for all applicants.

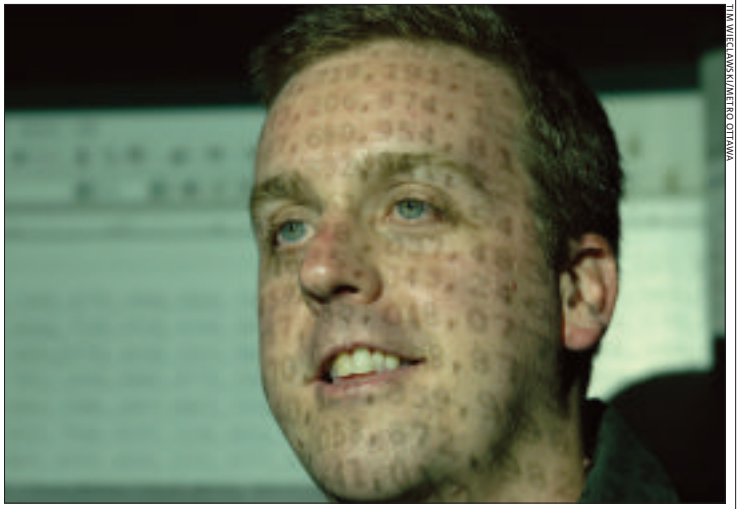
CANDICE WARD/FOR METRO CALGARY

Energy 101.5 FM Morning Show hosts Freeway Frank and Meg, and the show's producer, Ian MacKinnon pose with a possible bride and groom for 2 Strangers and a Wedding.

Many aspects of the radio courtship will remain confidential, such as the identities of each potential bride and groom once selected.

The wedding date has been set for Oct. 30, 2008.

Edmonton teens attack senior
Two Edmonton teens were arrested after they allegedly attacked a senior to steal his car in the city's north end yesterday. METRO CANADA



TIM WILCOX/ADVOCATE/METRO OTTAWA

Jeff Gilchrist played an integral role in an international team that discovered the largest prime number ever recorded. It has 12.9 million digits.

Canadian student hits prime time

TRACEY TONG
tracey.tong@metronews.ca

A Carleton University PhD student has played a key role in the recent discovery of the world's largest-known prime number.

An international team called the Great Internet Mersenne Prime Search — of which Ottawa's Jeff Gilchrist is a member — discovered the 12.9 million-digit number Aug. 23.

Gilchrist, 32, independently verified the number using one of the university's supercomputers over 16 days.

It is the first prime number — a number that can only be equally divided by the number one and itself — ever discovered with more than 10 million digits and qualifies for the Electronic Frontier Foundation Cooperative Computing Award of $100,000 U.S.

"It's very exciting for me," said Gilchrist, who is studying systems and computer engineering at Carleton University.

> **"In the mathematical world, this is like an Olympic event where everyone is trying to beat the record."**
> Jeff Gilchrist

"In the mathematical world, this is like an Olympic event where everyone is trying to beat the last record."

Discovered by a computing manager at the University of California, the new largest-known prime number — written in shorthand as 243,112,609-1 — beats the last record of 9.8 million digits by more than 3 million digits.

The new record has wiped out six other-record breaking prime numbers that Gilchrist has helped to verify over the years.

"This number's important because it breaks the 10-million barrier," said Gilchrist. "It's a big deal in the mathematical world.

"To get an idea of how large this number really is, if you printed all of the digits in a book, it would be over 3,200 pages long," he said. "That would fill the majority of the Harry Potter series of books. I find it fascinating that a number with over 12 million digits cannot be equally divided by another number except one and itself."

In itself, this particular number is not important.

"It's more to see what computers are capable of doing with extremely large numbers," said Gilchrist. "Prime numbers are used in some computer security systems. Some cryptographic algorithms are used for Internet security and e-commerce relies on the difficulty of finding large prime numbers," he said.

News in brief

TRUCKERS The RCMP are appealing to truckers across North America to help in their investigation of the death of a man on the Trans-Canada Highway in western Manitoba on the weekend, CBC News reported. RCMP Staff Sgt. Moe Massart said investigators believe several truckers may have run over the man without realizing it. He was pronounced dead at the scene. The search is now on for the first vehicle who may have struck the man. Massart said police want to talk to the driver to determine what happened.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Bail unlikely for Toronto man

HEALTH The Toronto man who was arrested after a hospital standoff over the care of his severely malnourished 9-month-old baby will appear in court this morning for a bail hearing.

But his chances of getting out of jail — as the baby's mother did Monday — could be more difficult, because the Crown has said it will not consent to his release.

The 36-year-old father appeared briefly in court, but his case was put over. As he was led off in handcuffs, he yelled that authorities are "trying to break apart my family."

Charged

- The unmarried couple, along with a female friend, were charged Sunday with obstructing police

The infant's 22-year-old vegan mother also appeared in court and was granted $2,500 bail.

The couple belong to an obscure religious sect called Moorish Science Temple of America, which prefers homeopathic medicine.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Did you know?
Elections Canada used about 550 tonnes of election materials in the 2006 election, including ballot boxes, forms, training manuals and . ELECTIONS CANADA

Election 2008

Candidate

Justin Trudeau

Separatist group targets Trudeau

CAMPAIGN Justin Trudeau has been chosen as enemy No. 1 by a separatist group in Quebec. The Young Patriots of Quebec — which describes itself as an activist group of "indépendantistes" from ages 7 to 77 and which also demonstrates frequently for the primacy of French language rights — yesterday launched its campaign against Trudeau, a star Liberal candidate for the Montreal riding of Papineau.

The group has struck a committee appropriately called "No Trudeau in Papineau," which will attempt to "show the true face of Justin Trudeau" — namely, the apparently anti-Quebec, anti-French language face — and has produced bumper stickers; signs, pamphlets and pins are coming later this week.

Next week, a protest is planned in front of Trudeau's riding office.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

27 days remain until the 2008 Canadian federal election

Don't fear majority: PM

Harper says strong mandate would allow him to run his legislative agenda

Conservative Leader Stephen Harper is suggesting that his next government — even if it is a minority as he predicts — would govern as if it had a majority when it comes to issues of the economy and crime.

AARON HARRIS/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Two girls don't appear to be paying attention yesterday as Prime Minister Stephen Harper speaks at the St. Volodymyr Cultural Centre in Oakville, Ont.

At a roundtable discussion yesterday with about 30 ethnic media reporters from the Greater Toronto Area, Harper was asked to comment on the day's events — including bad economic news stemming from the U.S. and a shooting at a Toronto school.

Though he declined to comment on the school shooting, Harper delivered a defence of his party's position on gun crime that veered into how he would approach the next Parliament.

He suggested that while a majority is not to be expected, it is also not to be feared.

In any event, he made clear a stronger mandate would give him permission to run his legislative agenda as he sees fit.

"The other parties do not believe in tougher laws against criminals," Harper said. "That's why we need a strong mandate. And I can tell you, if I get a mandate, including a minority mandate, we are not going to be as tolerant of obstruction of this," Harper said.

Asked how a majority government would change his approach, Harper for the first time appeared to open the door to a possible majority win.

He said polls "all show us in the lead," but not all the surveys show the Conservatives winning a majority.

"I'm not predicting a majority. I'm running to get a strong mandate."

But Harper then took a new tack on the message of economic stability that he has been pushing since the election began, saying he won't tolerate "sabotaging" of the government's economic agenda either.

> **"In a time of economic uncertainty, I do think the country needs a strong government that is able to govern."**
> Stephen Harper

"In a time of economic uncertainty, I do think the country needs a strong government that is able to govern."

Harper said he would not change course, but govern as he has for the past two years by keeping the promises made on the campaign trail — nothing more, but nothing less.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Heard on the Street: Do we need this federal election?

From Metro newsrooms across Canada

Cindy Bennett
age 41, Vancouver

A: As much as I don't like the government, I think it's a little too soon.

Kerren Forde
age 20, Vancouver

A: Yes. It's time for a change. The amount of taxes we pay sucks.

Danielle Behan
age 24, Vancouver

A: Yeah. With gas prices and everything, I think it's getting kind of ridiculous. I don't think the Conservatives are very focused on that.

Roger Leborgne
age 43, Halifax

A: I think we need to get rid of Stephen Harper. Just because I don't like his way of doing business. Nothing personal.

Marie-Eve Claudia
age 26, Ottawa

A: It's hard to tell if the population is satisfied with the present government. An election will confirm if the government is moving in the right direction or if people want changes.

Claudia Bonifay
age 19, Montreal

A: Yes. I want some changes in Ottawa. The campaign should be longer though so we have the time to know what the parties have to say and to make a clear choice.

Tina Goralewski
age 22, Toronto

A: Not really. Because it doesn't seem like much has changed since the last one and I think it will be the exact same thing in the next one (a minority government).

Teri Freeman
age 24, Calgary

A: I think this whole thing is kind of a waste of time. Everybody knows how they're going to vote anyway and nothing has come up so far that's going to change anyone's mind.

Vern Dolinsky
age 30, Edmonton

A: I think it is necessary because they haven't really been accomplishing much in Parliament. It's just a chance to reset everything and start from scratch.

Election 2008

PHILIP CROUCHER/FOR METRO CANADA

Liberal Leader Stéphane Dion waves to supporters with wife Janine Krieber and Toronto Centre MP Bob Rae prior to a press conference yesterday in Halifax.

Dion pledges better medication plan

No Canadian with a serious illness should ever have to go into debt or sell their home to cover their medication, Liberal Leader Stéphane Dion said yesterday in Halifax.

Dion announced a program for catastrophic drug coverage worth $900 million over four years. The proposed plan would be in addition to programs already offered by such provinces as Ontario and Quebec.

"We believe that no Canadian should have to choose between taking a drug they need, and paying for their other basic needs," Dion said at a campaign stop. "Unfortunately, this is too often the case today, especially in the Atlantic provinces."

Dion said people with cancer, diabetes, arthritis and other serious illnesses should focus on getting better, not on worrying about their finances.

In Sherbrooke, Que., Dion later announced a four-year, $420-million plan to address Canada's pressing need for more doctors and nurses, including providing financial assistance to foreign-trained doctors.

Patient advocates and health professionals expressed cautious approval of the drug coverage program. Patient groups agree a national plan is long overdue, said Colleen Savage, president of the grassroots Cancer Advocacy Coalition of Canada.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

High cost of treatment

Treatments for serious life-threatening or chronic illnesses are prohibitively expensive:

- The average drug treatment for kidney cancer costs between $6,000 and $7,000 per month.
- A standard course of treatment of colorectal cancer costs $40,000 to $60,000.
- Medication for rheumatoid arthritis costs about $20,000 per year.
- Drug coverage in Canada varies from province to province. For instance, kidney cancer patients in some provinces pay out of pocket for some of their new drug treatments, but costs in British Columbia are covered.

News in brief

HOUSING Conservative Leader Stephen Harper pulled another election goodie out of his campaign bag, a tax credit on expenses of up to $5,000 for first-time home buyers. Harper unveiled details of the tax break that would apply to the extra costs of closing a home purchase — one, he said, would save families up to $750 and create jobs in the construction industry.

DETOUR Liberal Leader Stéphane Dion's campaign plane had to make an unscheduled landing in Montreal after taking off from Sherbrooke last night. "We are having a slight problem and we have to land in Montreal," was all the pilot had to say.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Layton plans full review of Canadian banking regulations

ECONOMY NDP Leader Jack Layton kept the spotlight on the economy yesterday, charging Stephen Harper's stay-the-course strategy was failing workers, especially in Ontario.

Jack Layton

Layton took his tour yesterday to several manufacturing plants in the Niagara, Ont., region that have been hit by job losses.

"It's not just here in Welland. It's in London, it's in Oshawa, it's in St. Catharines, it's in St. Thomas, it's in Windsor. ... Right through the economic heartland of Ontario we have a job-loss crisis," he told reporters gathered outside farm equipment giant Deere & Co., which will close its Welland plant next year, putting 800 employees out of work.

Calling the U.S. credit crisis a "wake-up call," Layton said he would launch a full review of how the financial service is regulated in Canada.

"Let's face it. We're facing one of the biggest financial shocks that we've seen in an awful long time here in North America and globally," he said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

When you spend, you save.
And you save some more.

Olmert to meet Abbas again for peace talks

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert agreed at a meeting with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas yesterday to hold further peace talks in the coming weeks, even though Olmert will soon stand down as premier. REUTERS

World

U.S. not ready for TV switch

U.S. regulators are unprepared for an expected surge in demand for government help from consumers needing to switch their television sets from analog to digital in February, a government report said yesterday. REUTERS

Kidnapped reporters shown on Al-Jazeera

Al-Jazeera television yesterday aired a video showing a Canadian and an Australian journalist kidnapped in Somalia last month, and said the pair were appealing to their governments to work for their release.

Amanda Lindhout

Canadian Amanda Lindhout, 27, Australian Nigel Brennan and Somali reporter Abdifatah Mohammed Elmi, working as their translator, were seized on Aug. 23 by gunmen near Mogadishu.

The video showed Lindhout, wearing a long robe, and her colleague along with armed men. She was speaking to camera but the audio track was not aired.

The television said the kidnappers, calling themselves Mujahideen of Somalia, accused Canada and Australia of "taking part in the destruction of Somalia" and demanded that they review their policies.

An official for the group Reporters Without Borders said last week that the kidnappers were seeking $2.5 million U.S. for the return of the captives.

Somalia's Islamist insurgents have denied being behind the kidnapping.

Abductions are common in the lawless Horn of Africa nation, where Islamist insurgents have been fighting the interim government and its Ethiopian military allies since early 2007. REUTERS

Pakistani militants bombed

BOMBINGS Pakistani aircraft bombed militant strongholds yesterday, killing 14 insurgents, and a suicide car-bomber attacked security forces, killing three soldiers, military officials said.

The violence came as the top U.S. military officer, Admiral Mike Mullen, arrived in Pakistan, where stepped-up U.S. strikes on militants on the Pakistani side of the Afghan border have angered Islamabad and strained relations between the two allies.

U.S. officials say Taliban and al-Qaida-linked fighters use ethnic Pashtun tribal regions on the Pakistani side of the border as a springboard for attacks into Afghanistan.

An intensifying insurgency in Afghanistan has raised fears, leading to more cross-border U.S. strikes on militants.

Mullen said this month he was "looking at a new, more comprehensive strategy" that would include Pakistan's tribal areas. REUTERS

Dating Down Underwear

DANIEL MUNOZ/REUTERS

An Australian postal worker drives in front of a billboard with women dressed in underwear in Sydney. An Australian dating service has been plastering images of single people dressed only in their underwear on billboards across the nation.

Palin may meet UN leaders

ELECTION U.S. presidential candidate Sen. John McCain may take his running mate Sarah Palin to the United Nations next week, UN officials said yesterday, to give her the chance to meet a few world leaders.

Several UN officials told Reuters that they were preparing for a possible visit by the Republican candidates next Tuesday, the day President George W. Bush and one of his main foes, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, address the 192 UN member states.

McCain campaign officials declined to comment on the possible visit.

The Wall Street Journal cited an unnamed Republican strategist as saying a visit to the United Nations would boost the Alaska governor's foreign policy credentials. REUTERS

UN guests

Other world leaders expected to address the UN meeting are French President Nicolas Sarkozy and Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili.

Israeli ruling party vote on new leader

JERUSALEM Members of Israel's ruling party vote on Wednesday for a new leader to replace Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, who has promised to resign following a corruption investigation in which he faces indictment.

But whether Tzipi Livni or fellow cabinet minister Shaul Mofaz secures the support of a majority of the 74,000 members of the centrist Kadima party, Olmert may stay on as caretaker premier for weeks or months — and Israel's fractious coalition politics could yet mean an early parliamentary election.

Polls show Foreign Minister Livni with 47 per cent — well ahead of Mofaz, the transport minister and a former general, at 28 per cent — in her bid to become Israel's first woman leader since Golda Meir in the 1970s. REUTERS

Venezuela's Chavez revels in Lehman Bros. collapse

Country criticized in bankers' reports

CARACAS Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez took a swipe at Lehman Brothers yesterday, chuckling over the firm's collapse and dismissing its past criticism of the Venezuelan economy.

"They were always producing negative reports about Venezuela," Chavez told reporters. "They forgot about themselves ... and 'boom!' they were bankrupt."

Many investment firms, including Lehman, question the strength of Venezuela's fast-growing economy, saying it relies too heavily on oil exports and is failing to attract foreign investment.

Chavez pointed out the economy has grown for nearly five years.

"Few people in the world say that," he said. "Lehman Brothers, for example, never said it, maybe that's why things didn't go well for them."

"They forgot about themselves ... and 'boom!' they were bankrupt."
Hugo Chavez

Venezuela's economy grew 7.1 per cent in the second quarter, with high crude oil prices funding a construction boom and public spending. REUTERS

Congress dispute strands U.S. flood insurance program

CONGRESS Alabama Sen. Richard Shelby urged the House yesterday to back down and accept the Senate's terms in negotiations to renew the U.S. flood insurance program, set to expire on Sept. 30.

As Texas struggled to recover from Hurricane Ike and the Midwest from heavy flooding, insurance lobbyists said Congress was locked in a standoff over the future of the National Flood Insurance Program, a 40-year-old federal program that insures millions of American homeowners.

Shelby told reporters, "We've got a good bill ... I hope the House will take our bill. If they don't, they're making a mistake." REUTERS

Alaska politician loses dismissal bid

CASE Longtime Republican Sen. Ted Stevens lost a bid yesterday to dismiss the corruption case against him.

He argued that the indictment infringed upon his constitutional rights as a lawmaker, was indicted in July for filing false financial disclosure forms by leaving out more than $250,000 U.S. in gifts from an oil company. REUTERS

American woman guilty of child sex

AUSTRALIA A Lyndhurst, Va. woman who flew to Australia and spent 10 days in a caravan park with a 15-year-old boy was convicted yesterday of having sex with a minor but released from jail.

Barbara Case, 37, had spent 112 days in custody after being arrested in May, 2007. The judge said any further prison time would be too harsh. REUTERS

Lesbian movie going 'straight' to theatres

MOVIES I Can't Think Straight, a cross-cultural lesbian romantic comedy written, directed and produced entirely by women, has been picked up for North American distribution by indie Here! Films.

The film charts the unexpected romance between Palestinian Christian Tala and Indian Muslim Leyla. REUTERS

News in brief

HEALTH Bisphenol A, a chemical common in plastic food and beverage containers, baby bottles and as a coating inside food cans, has been linked to health problems in humans such as heart disease, and diabetes, a major study found.

RELIGION Catholic churches across the U.S. are praying for change as the Catholic denomination in the U.S. close admid shifting demographic and lawsuits draining cash. REUTERS

Deacon goes old-school with new collections
Designer Gilles Deacon wowed crowds with his latest collection yesterday, featuring helmets resembling the video game character Pac-Man. REUTERS

REUTERS / DAVID GRAY

A woman gives her grandson water as she waits along with hundreds of other local residents at the headquarters of the Sanlu Group to receive a refund in the city of Shijiazhuang yesterday.

Milk recalled in China

Two babies killed by contaminated formula

Thousands of mothers from China have flocked to Hong Kong to buy milk powder manufactured overseas, as a tainted milk powder scandal spreads, media said yesterday.

Pharmacies and supermarkets along the rail line linking Hong Kong to the southern Chinese city of Shenzhen experienced "panic buying of overseas milk powder brands," the South China Morning Post reported.

The chairman of the Hong Kong General Chamber of Pharmacy said mainland mothers were "restricted to a maximum of three cans at each pharmacy" to ensure supplies wouldn't run out.

Officials have ordered a nationwide probe into all baby milk powders after hundreds of infants developed kidney stones after drinking formula made by the Sanlu group, which has since begun a recall. Two babies have died.

Twenty per cent of Chinese dairy firms probed in the wake of the health scandal have been found to have produced melamine-tainted formula. REUTERS

Schwarzenegger vows to veto state budget

CALIFORNIA California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger said yesterday he would veto the state budget passed by lawmakers early in the morning after a record delay because it fell short of one his key demands, and lawmakers said they are prepared to override his decision.

"Enough is enough," the Republican governor said during a press event broadcast online. "I will veto it."

"It's not a fiscally responsible budget," he added, rebuking Republican lawmakers who voted for it. "The people of California deserve better."

The announcement by the actor-turned-politician amounts to little more than political theatre, as the legislature has enough votes to override his veto after passing its bipartisan budget plan, top lawmakers from both parties said. The budget passed easily in both the state Senate and Assembly.

"It's not a fiscally responsible budget. The people of California deserve better."
Arnold Schwarzenegger

"Frankly, a veto simply puts the governor in the starring role in California's financial disaster," said Senate president pro Tem Don Perata, a Democrat.

Senate Republican Leader Dave Cogdill said a veto is a "mistake," adding, "I will vote to override the governor's veto, as should every other legislator who approved this budget."

The compromise bill, sets $104.3 billion in spending for the current fiscal year that began on July 1, achieved neither the higher taxes that Democrats urged nor deeper spending cuts Republicans wanted. Lawmakers exhausted by the impasse urged Schwarzenegger to endorse their plan, which gives him much of what he had wanted, including no tax increases, spending cuts and an agreement to allow the state to borrow from future state lottery revenues. REUTERS

News in brief

NORWAY Norway's Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg pledged yesterday to donate $1 billion to Brazil's Amazon protection fund. As the first country to aid the fund, Norway will donate as much as $130 million next year, but the money will only be handed over if Brazil demonstrates that deforestation in the country's rainforest went down in the past year.

GEORGIA A group of UN humanitarian agency officials will visit the Georgian separatist enclave of South Ossetia to assess the situation after the country's brief war with Russia last month, the United Nations said yesterday. The objective of the mission is to gain first-hand knowledge of the humanitarian and human rights situations and needs on the ground, they said.

UNITED NATIONS A former Nicaraguan leftist official became president of the UN General Assembly yesterday, urging that power be given to its broad membership and taken away from the big-power-dominated Security Council. Miguel D'Escoto Brockmann called for a "democratization" of the United Nations and sharply attacked the World Bank and International Monetary Fund. REUTERS

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St. Lawrence Seaway says union has strike mandate
The company that runs the St. Lawrence Seaway said yesterday its 445 unionized workers had voted in favour of giving their union a strike mandate, but added it hoped to avoid a stoppage. Collective agreement talks start up again on Oct. 6. REUTERS

Business

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EDITOR: FERMIN DESOUZA, FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Emergency funds flow as investors fret

Feds try to contain bank fallout

Central banks pumped emergency funds into world financial markets for a second day yesterday in an increasingly fraught effort to contain the fallout from the crisis sweeping Wall Street's biggest firms.

But concerted global injections of hundreds of billions of dollars failed to bolster sentiment, or prevent a surge in the cost of borrowing between banks, which jumped well beyond the level hit when the global credit crunch first gripped markets in August 2007.

"The banking crisis is not over and we have potentially a difficult few months to get through right to the end of this year," said Padhraic Garvey, head of investment grade strategy at ING.

The interest rate banks demand for lending dollars overnight to other institutions surged above 10 percent, signaling an escalation of mistrust. REUTERS

In crisis

- Manulife Financial Corp. said it could acquire AIG's variable annuity business and other lines if the troubled insurer sells them
- BCE Inc. shares have dropped nine per cent this week as investors worried that funding for the company's $34.8-billion buyout may fall apart
- Sun Life Financial says it will take a charge on its Lehman investments totalling $349 million

U.S. markets **Feds rescue AIG**

BRENDAN MCDERMID/REUTERS

Journalists interview an American International Group employee outside AIG's world headquarters in New York yesterday. Shares fell 48 per cent yesterday, and the Federal Reserve later said it will loan AIG up to $85 million to stave off bankruptcy.

Business in brief

RULING The Ontario Superior Court has ruled that Bell Canada Inc. improperly collected millions through its $25 "administrative" fee imposed on late-paying satellite television customers, and said it amounted to a criminal rate of interest. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

SURPLUS Finance Minister Jim Flaherty says Canada will post a budget surplus in 2008-2009 of over $3 billion.

EXPANSION Shoppers Drug Mart said it expects to add 50 new stores to its existing 1,100 over the next five years. REUTERS

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Jeff Kitura.

Long track Speed Skater.

Langley, B.C.

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Seahawks add receiver Colbert for pick

The Denver Broncos shipped backup wideout Keary Colbert to the Seattle Seahawks yesterday. Colbert was sent to Seattle in exchange for a 2009 draft pick. The Broncos had inked Colbert as a free agent from the Carolina Panthers on a three-year, $7.2 million contract. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports

Schneider put on waivers

The Anaheim Ducks waived defenceman Mathieu Schneider yesterday. The move was made at 12 p.m. EDT, which means that the remaining 29 NHL clubs have 24 hours to pick up the 39-year-old rearguard or his rights revert back to the Ducks. Schneider, left, recorded 12 goals and 39 points in 65 games last season. Metro News Services

EDITOR: JONATHAN P. KUEHLEIN, SPORTS@METRONEWS.CA

Petitclerc golden in Paralympic farewell

Canadian star claims fifth title in Beijing

She is rolling perfection; Canada's gold standard of the three-wheel set. So, how appropriate it was yesterday that, when Chantal Petitclerc finished the 1,500-metre wheelchair race in Beijing and ended her illustrious Paralympics career, she broke away from the pack to cross the finish line all alone.

After all, no one came close to her at these Paralympics, where she won five gold medals and set three world records. Few Canadians have entered her stratosphere as athletes or inspiring role models.

"When I saw I was on my own, it was like a bonus," the 38-year-old Montrealer said of the exclamation point on her career.

"It felt like a gift to finish it all alone."

Perhaps it was a repayment, a bit of payback for all that the effervescent yet relentlessly tough Petitclerc has given her sport and her country. As one of Canada's most decorated Paralympians, she has brought home 21 medals from five of these quadrennial meets, a treasure-trove of excellence that includes 14 golds. Michael Edgson, a blind swimmer who lives in Delta, B.C., won 18 gold and three silver medals over three Games.

Petitclerc has also received many honours off the track and she annually receives consideration for the Lou Marsh Trophy as Canada's athlete of the year. Undoubtedly, she will again this year. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

What a haul!

- With five gold medals at this year's Paralympic Games in Beijing, wheelchair racer Chantal Petitclerc retires with 21 medals in all, and is the world record holder at four distances.

CLARO CORTES IV/REUTERS

Canada's Chantal Petitclerc celebrates as she crosses the finish line yesterday in the women's 1,500-metre T54 final at the Paralympic Games.

B.C. Sports in brief

NHL The Canucks' prospects finished their Alberta two-step in style, defeating the Oilers' prospects 5-2 in Camrose. This year's first round draft pick, Cody Hodgson, led the way for the Canucks, scoring once and adding a pair of assists. Victoria's Dan Gendur also tallied for the visitors on a first period penalty shot. The Canucks will now decide which prospects will join the veterans at main camp, which opens on Friday.

SCOTT RINTOUL/METRO VANCOUVER

CFL The triplets will all be on the field for the Lions this Saturday in Saskatchewan. Ian Smart, who sat out last week's win in favour of Charles Roberts and Stefan Logan, will join his fellow running backs/returners for the rematch with the Roughriders. The odd man out is import receiver Rufus Skillern, who dropped four passes in the Leos' victory.

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WNBA
The Women's National Basketball Association saw higher attendance, television ratings and online traffic in its 12th season as the professional league continued to draw more attention. **REUTERS**

Gloves come off for female sports fans

Book revels in women's love of all things big league

YorkReport

Women enjoy professional sports. They really, really do.

This is a generalization, I know, but it's a cold, hard fact if you believe what's written in a new book called GAMEFACE, The Kick-Ass Guide for Women Who Love Pro Sports.

Women "may not fill our brains with as many numbers as some male fans do," GAMEFACE says, "but we appreciate the intricacies of the game, understand its complexity and appreciate the larger implications of sports. We get it. Most of us just aren't quite as obsessive about it as some of our male counterparts."

So there. Women share our passion, and co-authors Erica Boeke and Chris De Benedetti do their utmost to prove it in GAMEFACE. Clearly, they did their due diligence and dug up what they believe females need and want to know to augment their apparent affection for sports. And their New York-based publisher, Virgin Books (please, let that go) provided them with 348 pages in which to get their mission accomplished.

The writers are life-long sports fans who obviously live and breathe this stuff and are determined to share their knowledge with fellow females. They smother readers with mostly riveting information in quick-hitting, easy-to-read fashion.

"Sure," the book says, "women sports fans don't mind that there are some fine looking men in sports, and we loved posting the 'Would you rather shag Tom (Brady) or Eli (Manning)?' question to our friends during the weeks leading up to the 2008 Super Bowl … But women also love players for their hearts, minds, characters and gravity-defying skills."

GAMEFACE is laden with details about sex scandals, including a couple of old pitchers (Fritz Peterson and Mike Kekich) swapping wives, and a one-night stand involving entertainer Madonna and ex-slugger Jose Canseco.

There are stories about lousy national-anthem performances and athletes who tried to cross over into music, often embarrassing themselves.

The authors also discuss fashion in sports — raving, incidentally, about the old Montreal Expos' chapeaus, which they called "very cool", and ripping the threads of the Denver Broncos, tennis player Rafael Nadal and sportscaster Craig Sager.

There's a nifty chapter on superstitions in sports, which describes not only the Curse of the Bambino (Babe Ruth) but also the Curse of Jessica Simpson.

The authors recount famous feuds, pranks and couples (NHLer Mike Comrie and singer Hilary Duff made the book). There also are stories about crime and drugs and cheating and …

Yep, they cover all every woman (and man, for that matter) needs to know about the sports they love, and then some. The book doesn't hit shelves until October, but in the meantime, check out www.GoGameFace.com.

Marty York has been a groundbreaking sports columnist and broadcaster in Canada for decades.

Slump busters?

• On Page 126 of GAMEFACE, co-authors Erica Boeke and Chris De Benedetti tell readers all about "slump busters," when athletes go to bars to find "overweight, ugly women" for the purposes of sleeping with them — preconceived efforts to end their slumps.

Sports in brief

MLB Former MVP and current Los Angeles Dodgers manager Joe Torre is among 10 retired baseball players who the Veterans Committee will consider for election into the National Baseball Hall of Fame later this year.

NFL Dallas Cowboys safety Roy Williams will miss several weeks after fracturing his right forearm in Monday night's 41-37 win over Philadelphia. The five-time Pro Bowler is expected to be sidelined for three to four weeks. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Orioles win battle of the birds

Orioles 2 Blue Jays 0

MLB Luke Scott homered and Chris Waters hurled nine scoreless innings to lead Baltimore over Toronto 2-0 last night in the opener of a three-game set from the Rogers Centre.

Brian Roberts knocked in the other run for the Orioles, who have won two in a row.

Waters (3-3) completed a contest for the first time in his career, scattering four hits while fanning three and walking two.

"I was pretty consistent with everything," Waters said. "Basically, I just told (catcher Ramon Hernandez) that we just set up low and away. I threw the two-seamer away until they made me change. I didn't have to change too much tonight."

Travis Snider doubled for the Blue Jays, who have dropped three straight games.

Shaun Marcum (9-7) took the loss, charged with two hits and a run over two-plus innings before leaving the game with right forearm numbness.

"If there's nothing wrong, I don't have a contract guaranteed for me next year," Marcum said. "I've got to come out and pitch and show these guys I can be in the rotation next year as well."

FRED THORNHILL/REUTERS

Orioles starting pitcher Chris Waters threw a complete game, four-hit shutout to lead Baltimore to a 2-0 victory over the Toronto Blue Jays last night.

Baltimore picked up the game's first run in the third, as Castro walked and scored when Roberts followed with a double. Nick Markakis walked and Marcum exited due to injury. John Parrish came on and fanned Melvin Mora before walking Aubrey Huff. Hernandez, though, grounded into a double play to end the threat.

Scott's 23rd homer of the season gave the O's a 2-0 edge in the fourth, and Waters was in control from there.

The young left-hander surrendered singles in the fourth to Vernon Wells and in the fifth to Gregg Zaun. Snider doubled with one out in the eighth, but Waters rebounded to retire five of the final six batters he faced to finish the contest. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

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Woods offers to help U.S. Ryder Cup team

World No. 1 Tiger Woods has offered to give the U.S. team advice via telephone when they take on holders Europe in this week's Ryder Cup at Valhalla Golf Club. REUTERS

Bettman not happy with KHL

NHL boss has 'reservations' about Russian hockey league

NHL commissioner Gary Bettman can't hide his disdain for Russian hockey and the International Ice Hockey Federation for allowing Alexander Radulov to play in the Continental Hockey League (KHL).

"I don't think the way the KHL or the IIHF has handled the Radulov situation is either fair, appropriate or in good faith," Bettman said at a news conference following the league's board of governors meeting. "That's the reason we have reservations about doing business with the KHL going forward."

Bettman

Radulov is the rising star who is playing for Salavat Yulaev Ufa of the Russian-backed KHL even though he has a valid contract with the Nashville Predators. The IIHF has suspended Radulov from international play but has not sanctioned the KHL.

That has made the NHL's collective blood boil. Saying it wants to be a good international citizen by working toward a transfer agreement that would regulate the exchange of players, the NHL is nonetheless trying to extend its presence in Europe. Four teams will play regular-season games there this fall.

One of them, the New York Rangers, will play Russia's Metallurg Magnitogorsk in the inaugural Victoria Cup, a championship to be played annually between an NHL team and the European champion.

Bettman suggested the NHL's involvement in the Victoria Cup, and other IIHF events, could be at risk.

The NHL Players Association mused this summer that NHL involvement in tournaments like the world championship and Olympics might be in doubt if relations between the NHL and KHL remain frosty.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Sports in brief

NFL Tampa Bay Buccaneers rookie cornerback Elbert Mack was suspended for one game without pay for a "flagrant violation of player safety rules", the NFL announced yesterday.

NHL Carolina Hurricanes centre Rod Brind'Amour underwent successful surgery on his left knee yesterday. He is expected to be back for the start of the season.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Roma shocked in Champions action

SOCCER Romania's CFR Cluj shocked AS Roma 2-1 on their Champions League debut yesterday but there were no surprises for big guns Chelsea, Liverpool, Barcelona or Inter Milan who all won their opening group games.

Christian Panucci had put Roma ahead in the 16th minute at the Stadio Olimpico, but two goals from Juan Culio handed the Romanians victory in Group A.

Panucci

"Starting this way at this level is incredible," Cluj's coach, Maurizio Trombetta said.

Chelsea opened with a 4-0 demolition of Girondins Bordeaux. Liverpool beat Marseille 2-1. Atletico Madrid posted a 3-0 win at PSV Eindhoven. Werder Bremen were surprisingly held to a goalless draw by Cypriot debutants Anorthosis Famagusta. Inter Milan beat Panathinaikos 2-0. Barcelona beat Sporting Lisbon. Ukraine's Shakhtar Donetsk put away Basel 2-1. REUTERS

SCOREBOARD

MLB

AMERICAN LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
Tampa Bay	89	60	.597	—
w-Boston	89	62	.589	1
N.Y. Yankees	80	71	.530	10
Toronto	80	71	.530	10
Baltimore	67	82	.450	22

CENTRAL DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
Chicago Sox	84	66	.560	—
Minnesota	82	69	.543	2½
Cleveland	74	77	.490	10½
Detroit	70	80	.467	14
Kansas City	67	84	.444	17½

WEST DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
x-L.A. Angels	92	58	.613	—
Texas	75	77	.493	18
Oakland	70	80	.467	22
Seattle	57	93	.380	35

NATIONAL LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
Philadelphia	84	67	.556	—
w-N.Y. Mets	83	67	.553	½
Florida	78	72	.520	5½
Atlanta	67	84	.444	17
Washington	58	93	.384	26

CENTRAL DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
Chicago Cubs	91	58	.611	—
Milwaukee	83	68	.550	9
Houston	80	70	.533	11½
St. Louis	78	72	.520	13½
Cincinnati	69	81	.460	22½
Pittsburgh	63	88	.417	29

WEST DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
L.A. Dodgers	79	72	.523	—
Arizona	74	76	.493	4½
Colorado	69	83	.454	10½
San Francisco	68	83	.450	11
San Diego	58	94	.382	21½

(w — teams currently holding wild-card spots; x — clinched division title)

LAST NIGHT'S RESULTS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Baltimore 2 Toronto 0
Chicago White Sox 6 N.Y. Yankees 2
Kansas City 6 Seattle 3
Tampa Bay 2 Boston 1
Texas 5 Detroit 4
Cleveland 12 Minnesota 9 (11)
Oakland 8 L.A. Angels 1

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Cincinnati 7 St. Louis 2
Chicago Cubs 5 Milwaukee 4
Colorado 10 San Diego 3
Florida 5 Houston 1
L.A. Dodgers 6 Pittsburgh 2
Philadelphia 8 Atlanta 7
Washington 1 N.Y. Mets 0
Arizona 2 San Francisco 0

TODAY'S GAMES

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Minnesota at Cleveland, 4:05
Chicago Sox at N.Y. Yankees, 4:05
Baltimore at Toronto, 4:07
Boston at Tampa Bay, 4:10
Detroit at Texas, 5:05
Seattle at Kansas City, 5:10
L.A. Angels at Oakland, 7:05

NATIONAL LEAGUE

San Diego at Colorado, 12:05
L.A. Dodgers at Pittsburgh, 4:05
Houston at Florida, 4:10
Philadelphia at Atlanta, 4:10
N.Y. Mets at Washington, 4:10
St. Louis at Cincinnati, 4:10
Milwaukee at Chicago Cubs, 5:05
San Francisco at Arizona, 6:40

AL BATTING LEADERS

Name, team	AB	R	H	AVG
Pedroia Bos	614	114	201	.327
Ordonez Det	512	68	165	.322
Mauer Min	486	91	156	.321
Kinsler Tex	518	102	165	.319
Huff Bal	557	94	175	.314
Youkilis Bos	504	86	157	.312
Morneau Min	571	92	177	.310
Suzuki Sea	632	95	196	.310
Ibanez Sea	584	81	181	.310
Polanco Det	552	86	170	.308

NL BATTING LEADERS

Name, team	AB	R	H	AVG
Jones Atl	425	79	155	.365
Pujols StL	486	91	175	.360
Holliday Col	522	103	170	.326
Berkman Hou	515	110	167	.324
Lee Hou	436	61	137	.314
Winn SF	551	80	173	.314
Guzman Wash	547	75	171	.313
Theriot ChiC	541	78	166	.307
Schumaker StL	498	82	152	.305
Molina StL	443	37	135	.305
Giles SD	525	74	160	.305

CFL

EAST DIVISION

	W	L	T	PTS
Montreal	7	4	0	14
Toronto	4	7	0	8
Winnipeg	3	8	0	6
Hamilton	2	9	0	4

WEST DIVISION

	W	L	T	PTS
Saskatchewan	8	3	0	16
Edmonton	7	4	0	14
Calgary	7	4	0	14
B.C.	6	5	0	12

WEEK 12

FRIDAY'S GAME

Winnipeg at Hamilton, 5:30

SATURDAY'S GAMES

Toronto at Calgary, 4:30
B.C. at Saskatchewan, 7:30

SUNDAY'S GAME

Edmonton at Montreal, 11

NFL

WEEK 3

SUNDAY'S GAMES

Houston at Tennessee, 10
Oakland at Buffalo, 10
Carolina at Minnesota, 10
Kansas City at Atlanta, 10
Tampa Bay at Chicago, 10
Arizona at Washington, 10
Miami at New England, 10
Cincinnati at N.Y. Giants, 10
St. Louis at Seattle, 1:05
Detroit at San Francisco, 1:05
New Orleans at Denver, 1:05
Cleveland at Baltimore, 1:15
Jacksonville at Indianapolis, 1:15
Pittsburgh at Philadelphia, 1:15
Dallas at Green Bay, 5:15

MONDAY'S GAME

N.Y. Jets at San Diego, 5:30

SOCCER

GAMES FEATURING THE VANCOUVER WHITECAPS MEN'S TEAM:

SATURDAY'S GAME

VANCOUVER at Seattle, 7

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York law school opens student residence

York University, in Ontario, held an opening ceremony recently for the Osgoode Chambers, a residence specifically for Osgoode Hall Law School students. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Workology

uLethbridge Idol

University of Lethbridge student Theo Tams was crowned Canadian Idol last week, beating out co-finalist Mitch MacDonald. uLethbridge supported Tams' run by holding community viewings of the show, including the finale, on campus. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DOUGLAS DUNLOP, DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

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Top tips for your home business

• **DESK:** To sit perchance to file. Every entrepreneur needs a place to operate his or her business — a place for billing, filing, copying, writing and e-mailing. For many homepreneurs, their desk becomes their office, so it has to be great. Ideally, the desk has a lot of drawers for storage, at least two or three full sides so that there is a lot of desk space and a high wall on one side so you can block out other rooms and activities.

• **HEADPHONES:** Listen up — working from home can be noisy — being able to plug in your headphones and ignore everything around you is a crucial part of staying focused and achieving what you have to in order to build your business.

• **A TALL FILING CABINET:** Anything vertical in a home office is a real space saver. A tall, thin filing cabinet that takes up minimal wall space is key.

• **LAPTOP:** When you work at home, sometimes you just have to get out of the office to be with people. Even if it means plugging in your laptop at a local coffee shop.

• **QUICKBOOKS SOFTWARE:** The first thing a new small-business owner should do once their desk is set up and their laptop is working is install Quickbooks and get a system for cash flow management set up before the business grows, not after. Office supply retailers such as Staples Business Depot offer a wide array of products to help homepreneurs get started. You can find many of the items mentioned above at easy.staples.ca. NEWS CANADA

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Art route a risky, rewarding venture

KRISTA MARTIN
for Metro Canada

"Everything is a story," said Julia Hutchings, a 22-year-old contemporary arts film major at Simon Fraser University.

Hutchings, a Banff native, originally wanted to get into acting but a chance to direct a film in Halifax opened her eyes to a career as a visionary filmmaker.

"It's my feeling that we don't actually get to choose what we want to do," she admitted.

Colin Browne, a professor of film at SFU echoes a similar sentiment.

"Since we are a contemporary art school, we focus on contemporary art and give the best education we can to someone who wants to be an independent artist," he said.

Whether it's dance, music, film, theatre, visual arts or arts and culture studies, the contemporary arts program caters to the artistic vision of each student.

PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Julia Hutchings is a film major in SFU's contemporary art program.

Browne admitted that the School of Contemporary Arts is not for everyone.

"Choosing the right place is important," he said.

"The person looking for a school to qualify them for an occupation right away, well, ours is not like that."

Browne said that while many students may work on their craft in their free time, some may take on jobs in Arts organizations as assistants, averaging about $35,000 per year.

Others work in coffee shops and do volunteer work and eventually set up their own companies and develop careers as independent artists.

Wherever the artists' path lies, Brown is convinced it is a vocation that requires dedication and hard work.

"It's hard to say if there's another job where you have to have this much courage and ability to take a risk.

"They work hard and its joyful work, but it's a vision and a vocation," he said.

SFU has, in fact, helped many students find their vocation.

One student has gone on to create the PuSh performing arts festival, while others have gone on to direct successful independent films.

"For someone who wants to be an artist, there's always a place," said Browne.

"The world is always waiting to see what the next group of artists will have to say."

school info

- Program: One of the six disciplines in the Contemporary Art School: film, theatre, music, dance, visual arts, and art and culture.
- Where: SFU.
- How Long: 4 years.
- Application Process: competitive. In the film, 50 applicants were interviewed and 24 were accepted. 18 typically make it to the end.
- To apply: make an appointment with the school.
- Tuition fees: $154.20 per course, not including student activity fees.
- For more information: visit cgi.sfu.ca/~scahome/

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Breach of web trust can lead to dismissal

WorkplaceLaw

dan@canadaemploymentlawyer.com

With positive performance reviews and regular salary increases, 14-year company veteran Gregory Backman had nowhere to go but up. But life can be lonely at the top. Having admitted to viewing pornography on his workplace computer, Backman was immediately fired. He wasn't about to go easily.

Supervising employees at the Saint John, New Brunswick premises of Maritime Paper Products Ltd., Backman had run into problems with Internet pornography before. He had been caught viewing inappropriate websites in 2002 and 2005. When a computer audit revealed that Backman had been surfing pornographic web sites for more than 10 hours in October 2006, Maritime Paper's response was swift. Backman was shown the door.

Backman, however, believed that the company's response to his online habits was merely an excuse to avoid paying him severance. He had received good performance reviews before, and rather than dismissing him after he was caught viewing pornography in 2005, the company gave him a raise instead.

Surfing inappropriate websites at work can lead to your dismissal, and possibly a sexual harassment suit.

Arguing, therefore, that his employer had condoned his online habits by its decision to award him a raise in 2005, Backman sued his company for wrongful dismissal, seeking one year's severance and his legal costs. Recently, a New Brunswick judge disagreed.

Finding that Backman's repeated viewing of pornography at work had not been condoned by his employer and that it had destroyed his employer's trust in him as a supervisor, the judge upheld Backman's dismissal. Interestingly, however, the judge also found that Backman's conduct was tantamount to sexual harassment because the female IT manager who performed the audit on his computer found the websites he visited "offensive".

Canadian courts will not be eager to respect privacy rights when employees access inappropriate websites at work. As well, given the unusual finding that viewing pornography on your own computer may amount to sexual harassment, employers now have a greater arsenal for dealing with Internet misuse. But it's not just viewing pornography at work that can land you in my offices seeking legal advice. Employees who spend an inordinate amount of time on the web at work can be viewed as "stealing an employer's time," which can also be cause for dismissal.

If you want to ensure that your job is safe, review any computer use policies that are in place and remember that employers maintain the right to monitor your online habits, especially where they provide the computers and Internet access.

Daniel A. Lublin is an employment lawyer focusing on the law of dismissal; dan@canadaemploymentlawyer.com.

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Automotive

A METRO JOINT VENTURE WITH: carguide magazine.com

EDITOR: KUMAR SAHA, KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

Infiniti thinks outside box

'Coupe-inspired SUV' has both brawn and beauty

LORNE DRURY
for Metro Canada

Infiniti's new 2008 EX35 is one of the new wave of compact luxury vehicles based on a car platform, in this case the G35 sedan.

Every so often a vehicle comes along that doesn't fit in one of the standardized little compartments those in the automotive world like to refer to as segments.

One such example is Infiniti's new 2008 EX35, which the manufacturer describes as a "coupe-inspired SUV," and many in the business would put in the small, but growing, compact luxury sport utility class.

That may be as good a way to put it as any because it sure is sporty, but many would argue with the utility part of the equation because the EX35 is far from what one is used to in a traditional sport utility vehicle.

That's because cargo volume is limited when the back seat is in use and the legroom in that backseat area is less than what you would find in most other SUVs.

If anything, I would put the EX35 in the crossover category because it is based on the same platform as the popular G35 sedan.

But regardless of how you describe it or what segment it fits in, there is no denying the EX35 is one beautiful vehicle.

And because it is car-based, it handles like a sports sedan or coupe and due to its size, is easy to manoeuvre in tight city driving.

In short, the perfect vehicle for those upscale suburbanites who want sporty looks, above-average performance and a touch of luxury in a smaller wagon-style package.

Infiniti has also packed in a lot of interesting new technological goodies into the EX35, including the optional Lane Departure Prevention system and Around View Monitor.

My tester was a loaded model with all the toys Infiniti offers in the EX35. It topped out at $50,050 plus freight and PDI.

Not a vehicle for anyone light in the pocketbook, but sure one I would love in my driveway.

It is powered by the same 3.5-litre V6 engine that is in the G35 sedan. The engine produces 297 hp and is mated with a five-speed automatic transmission with manual shift mode. The same all-wheel drive system utilized in the 2008 M, FX and G Sedan is standard in the new EX35.

The interior is every bit as attractive as the exterior styling. Note the wave-style dashboard treatment and soft-touch materials used inside the cabin.

Styling wise, the EX35 has the looks of its FX sibling. Sleek, flowing lines, the long hood and coupe-like roofline produce an appealing exterior package.

"The EX35 is the perfect fusion of a luxury coupe and a high-utility SUV," said Ian Forsythe, director, corporate and product planning for Nissan Canada Inc.

"It's 'right-size' packaging gives it excellent around town manoeuverability, while the wide rear hatch and low load floor make it a versatile performer for everyday and weekend use."

Turning to the interior, the cabin is as beautiful as the outside with a "wave-inspired" instrument panel, high-contrast gauges with white and violet illumination, soft touch materials and pleasing hospitality lighting.

During my test, I found the heated leather seats were soft, supportive and comfortable. An eight-way power driver's seat and four-way power passenger's seat are standard.

On the road, the EX35 delivers a smooth, comfortable ride with brisk acceleration.

In terms of fuel economy, the EX35 is rated as 12.9L/100 km city and 8.5L/100 km highway using premium gasoline.

Similar to the G35, the EX35 has an independent double wishbone front suspension with stabilizer bar and an independent multi-link system on the rear with stabilizer bar. Steering is power assisted and anti-lock braking with Electronic Brake force Distribution (EBD) is standard.

Two trim levels are offered on the EX35 — Luxury and Journey. Starting at $40,400, prices climb to the low-$50s.

2008 Nissan Infiniti EX35

Type: Compact luxury SUV
Price: $50,050
Engine: 3.5L DOHC V6
HP: 297 hp

Highlights

- Great looks
- Handles like sport sedan

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*On all 2009 models. Compared to MSRP for 2008, same model. **MSRP for a 2009 Murano 3.5 S AWD (L6RG19 AA00), CVT transmission/ 2009 Altima Coupe 2.5 S (T2RG59 AA00), manual transmission/ 2009 Xterra S 4x4 (8CLG59 AA00), manual transmission/ 2009 Armada LE-V8 4x4 (7CTG79 AA00), automatic transmission/ 2009 Altima Hybrid 2.5 S (T4HG19 AA00), CVT transmission/ 2009 Rogue 2.5 S FWD (W6RG19 AA00), CVT transmission/ 2009 Versa Hatchback 1.8 S (B5LG59 AA00), manual transmission/ 2009 Frontier King Cab XE 4x2 (2KLG59 AA00), manual transmission/ 2009 Maxima 3.5 SV (U4SG19 AA00), CVT transmission/ 2009 Titan King Cab XE 4x2 (1KAG79 AA00), automatic transmission / 2009 Altima Sedan 2.5 S (T4RG59 AA00), manual transmission/ 2009 Pathfinder S 4x4 (5CRG79 AA00), automatic transmission. †$48,998 MSRP for a 2009 Murano LE AWD (L6SG19 AA00), CVT transmission/ $31,198 MSRP for a 2009 Altima Coupe 3.5 SE (T2SG59 AA00), manual transmission/$37,898 MSRP for a 2009 Xterra SE (8CSG79 AA00), automatic transmission/ $32,198 MSRP for a 2009 Rogue SL AWD model w/Premium Package (Y6SG19 BK00), CVT transmission/ $17,823 MSRP for a 2009 Versa Hatchback 1.8 SL (B5RG59 AA00) manual transmission/ $33,238 MSRP for a 2009 Frontier PRO-4X King Cab (4KVG59 AA00), manual transmission/ $41,375 MSRP for a 2009 Maxima 3.5 SV w/Sport Package (U4SG19 SP00), CVT transmission/ $36,548 MSRP for a 2009 Titan King Cab SE 4x2 SWB (1KCG79 AA00), automatic transmission / $30,898 MSRP for a 2009 Altima Sedan 3.5 SE (T4SG59 AA00), manual transmission/ $42,198 MSRP for a 2009 Pathfinder SE 4x4 (5CSG79 AA00), automatic transmission. Includes destination and PDE charges ($1,500)/ ($1,400)/ ($1,500)/ ($1,550)/ ($1,400)/ ($1,500)/ ($1,325)/ ($1,440)/ ($1,425)/ ($1,450)/ ($1,400)/ ($1,500). License, registration, insurance, duties and applicable taxes are extra. All prices are subject to change without notice. Retailer may sell for less.

Get a handle on this van

A firm – but not jarring – ride part of the Honda Odyssey DX's appeal

MICHAEL BANOVSKY
for Metro Canada

The competitively priced 2008 Honda Odyssey DX offers a wide range of driving positions.

2008 Honda Odyssey DX

Type: Minivan
Price: $31,490
Engine: 3.5L SOHC V6
HP: 244 h.p.

Highlights

- Great handling
- Competitive price
- Attractive, robust build

The 2008 Honda Odyssey DX keeps all the functionality of its high-end siblings, but reduces the price to a competitive $31,490.

The Odyssey is more polished than Brasso. Every switch, control, lever and surface is screwed down tightly.

Adjustments with the driver's seat (six-way manual adjustment) and steering controls (tilt and telescope) are smooth and offer a wide range of possible driving positions.

Controls are easy-to-use, with the only blemish coming from the CD player's forward/back buttons being the furthest away from the driver. I like the storage tray between the front seats as it reminds me of being a kid, when a rack for cassette tapes filled that space in our family vehicle.

How times have changed — especially since a CD player and auxiliary input are standard. Mom can rock out to Ciara while the kids are at swimming lessons, and switch back to Barney with a few clicks of the IPod.

There are, however, quite a few blank switches that remind you of the luxury you could have attained, but for only a few options boxes. In the high-level ($48,890!) Touring model, owners enjoy such features as power rear liftgate, power adjustable pedals, power sliding doors, 360-watt sound system, satellite navigation, and Bluetooth. None of which you really need, of course, unless your father is William Shatner.

Dad's gotta play, though, and thankfully Honda didn't cheap out and offer an inferior powertrain at the lowest price point. Motivation comes from a 3.5-litre SOHC V6 with VTEC, mated to a five-speed automatic.

It's 244 horsepower and 240 ft-lbs worth of go, and actually slightly more power than you can get from the top-level EX-L and Touring models — but their motors also feature i-VTEC and cylinder deactivation to markedly improve economy.

Consumption stands at a competitive 13.3 L/100 km city and 8.5 L/100 km highway. Finally, the Odyssey is rated to tow a stout 1,588 kg.

Handling is great for a van (this is coming from someone who once burned up the front tires in his mother's Mazda MPV), and while not "tossable," could conceivably force a few tossed cookies.

The ride is firm but not jarring — the soft 16-inch steel wheels, tall sidewalls, and touring-tuned tires help keep composure over rough pavement.

Safety wasn't compromised, either — four-wheel ABS with EBD, traction control, vehicle stability control, active front head restraints, dual front airbags, dual side airbags, dual three-row curtain airbags, and child-proof locks are all standard fare.

So is the Canada-only DX worthy of the money you could be putting into a college fund?

Yes. It's built well, attractive, robust and will outlast most toddlers.

It's designed to grow with a family, through road and shopping trips. It feels the benchmark in a class that's gotten so good over the last few years some automakers have given up completely.

Just get the windows tinted, OK? With that much space on display, the neighbours may get jealous.

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The A6 is Audi's mid-size offering, slotted between the A4 and A8 ranges, and is tied to the family through shared styling cues.

Avant garde to the max

Audi A6 blends excitement and practicality

PHILIPPE CROWE
for Metro Canada

Are you looking for sports-car handling, "better than the pack performance," style that states right away that you are at the top taste-wise, and a touch of high-end luxury and technology? But you also want comfort and space to spare, as well as a practical aspect that can't be found in a sports car. But you want everything else from that sports car.

As for the interior, it is simply a sumptuous place to spend time, either cruising or driving the Avant like a top-level sports car.

Your car has arrived!

Let me introduce you to the Audi A6 Avant 3.2 S-Line.

The A6 is Audi's mid-size offering, slotted between the A4 and A8 ranges, and is tied to the family through shared styling cues. The contours of the shoulder line sweeping up and the movement of the dynamic line above the side sills give the entire body of the car a unique push in forward design. Seen from the front, the trapezoidal design of the single-frame radiator grille is the shared front fascia styling cue of Audi models.

Avant identifies the station wagon version developed on the sedan's platform. Not the square wagon of your grandparents, but a very stylish, swoopy one. The luggage compartment in the A6 Avant is as advanced as the rest of the vehicle. It employs two securing rails that are recessed into the floor. They are fitted with four sliding, adjustable, and lockable load-retaining lugs that can be used to secure items of almost any size. Also using these rails is a removable telescoping arm and a retractable cargo strap. Both of these items help to separate and secure items in the cargo area. The load floor itself can be folded and locked in a variety of positions to divide the cargo area.

The 3.2 identifies the size of the engine, a 3123cc V6 FSI with 255 hp and 243 ft-lbs. of torque. FSI is Audi's direct injection technology. A direct injection engine delivers a more dynamic response with higher torque and power output, and lower fuel consumption. The main factor contributing to these improvements is how fuel is delivered. Fuel is not injected into the intake port but directly into the combustion chamber.

Other exciting features of the FSI engines are on-demand fuel supply, four-valve technology, a variable intake manifold and infinitely variable camshaft adjustment, which give the driver a dynamic and powerful reaction to every movement of the accelerator. All this equals muscular torque and high fuel efficiency.

Finally, S line is a package that regroups a number of exterior elements including a distinctive front grille with S line badge, aluminum door sills with S line badges, S line front and rear bumpers and 18-inch 5-arm quattro GmbH wheels with 245/40/18 summer performance tires or an optional two piece 19-inch 20-spoke alloy wheel with performance tires.

When equipped with this package, the standard wood trim in the A6 is replaced with an elegant gray birch wood trim.

Being an Audi, this A6 Avant sends the power through the now legendary Quattro all-wheel-drive system, a package that seems to have been tailor made for our country.

Media heaven behind wheel

Audi has just broken the sound barrier with an advanced new in-car entertainment system that offers exceptionally easy and intuitive control of iPods, MP3 players and CDs, but actually doesn't need any of them.

With its new integral hard drive, the latest Audi Multi Media Interface (MMI) is capable of storing up to 4,000 tracks internally, more than enough even for long-haul trans-continental holiday journeys.

When MMI is combined with the optional Audi Music Interface, the driver can remotely control an iPod or other music storage device using the central MMI control knob with its new built-in joystick and the four logically arranged push buttons grouped around it.

Track and title listings are displayed on the sophisticated in-dash screen, and tracks can be scrolled through and selected in much the same way as they are using the iPod itself, earning the system plenty of plaudits already for its clarity, accessibility and ease of navigation.

Features available as part of the latest system also include DAB digital radio reception, analogue and digital TV reception and DVD playback, all through the large in-dash monitor.

The new high-tech hard drive has a total capacity of 40 GB, 10 GB of which is given over to the 4,000-song mobile jukebox facility that can be loaded using SD memory cards. It also holds satellite navigation data covering the whole of Western Europe, replacing the outgoing system's already widely acclaimed technology.

Audi has introduced the Audi MMI that features integral 4,000-song jukebox, full remote iPod control and HDD navigation.

The new hard disk dramatically enhances the already high quality mapping offered by the Audi Satellite Navigation System Plus, significantly increasing the degree of detail and offering a new 3D digital topographical view which gives a pictorial depiction of key landmarks to add even greater context.

Wherever possible it even provides a choice of three routes to a chosen destination, including one that has been specifically calculated to require the least possible consumption of fuel.

Driving the iPhone

•Audi has announced the release of the first ever iPhone application from an auto manufacturer. The "Audi A4 Challenge" is a driving game that utilizes the iPhone's accelerometer (motion sensor) to steer a digital version of Audi's entirely new 2009 A4 through a series of progressively challenging courses. Players manoeuver the course and race against the clock to beat their own personal best time. The application is now available free of charge on Apple's iPhone Application Store. Customers who visit www.truthinengineering.com/a4/iphone on their iPhone will find a unique interface and content on the A4, specialized videos, wallpapers, an exterior color customizer, a dealer locator and link to install the Audi A4 Challenge application.

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Asian carmaker powers Detroit Electric

Detroit Electric is making a comeback in a big way with plans to progressively roll out affordable electric vehicles worldwide by the end of 2009.

It was one of the first all-electric cars and built in Detroit before fading before the rise of the internal combustion engine before the First World War.

As part of the Malaysian government's initiative to tackle rising fuel prices and the search for green alternative transportation, Detroit Electric's electric vehicle has been identified as one of the potential progressive innovative ways to tackle the on-going concerns.

Malaysian carmaker Proton has been requested by Prime Minister YAB Datuk Seri Abdullah Badawi to test and validate Detroit Electric's technology and explore the potential to collaborate to create a range of pure electric cars.

Detroit Electric has to date integrated its electric drive systems into Lotus Elise's, two Proton passenger cars, Daihatsu-Cuore and VW Golf, with the intent to use these electric drive systems to development pure electric vehicles for volume production within the next 18 months.

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Old style is back in style

Automakers cash in on nostalgia

LORNE DRURY
for Metro Canada

The powerful 425 hp 6.1-litre SRT8 sits atop the ladder in the Challenger lineup. However, two V6 models are available for 2009, starting at $24,995. The Brampton-built Challenger also has a 5.7-litre Hemi engine, available in the R/T trim level, starting at $34,995.

Everything old is new again in the car business. Chrysler was one of the first to cash in on the public's taste for nostalgia with its PT Cruiser.

Ford followed with a redesign of the Mustang that mimicked an earlier model and now Chrysler has done it again with the return of the iconic Dodge Challenger model, set for a full-line launch in 2009.

The trend will continue next year when the Chevrolet Camaro returns, going head-to-head with the Mustang and Challenger.

Chrysler actually teased us a bit earlier this year with the introduction of the top-of-the-line SRT8 Challenger, marketed as a 2008 model. However, only 500 of them stayed north of the border with about 7,000 making their way to the U.S.

While the SRT8 version is still in the lineup for 2009, the Brampton-built Challengers now start in SE trim at an affordable $24,995.

The volume leader in Canada, however, is expected to be the SXT, priced at $26,995. Both the SE and SXT are powered by a 3.5-litre high output V6, producing 250 hp and 250 lb-ft of torque.

A four-speed automatic is the only transmission available on these two models.

The third new model in the lineup is the R/T ($34,995), equipped with a 5.7-litre Hemi V8. It is offered with either a six-speed manual or five-speed automatic. The 425 hp SRT8 returns with a 6.1-litre Hemi, again with either a six-speed manual or four speed automatic.

While the SXT is expected to be the biggest seller, this car is really about muscle and the R/T and SRT8 will be sought after by gearheads.

The volume leader in Canada is expected to be the SXT.

Fuel economy is decent, but it remains to be seen how long a shelf life this model enjoys. Hopefully, the Challenger won't be the right car at the wrong time, because it's fun to drive and may be the best muscle car yet built.

And there's no doubt it attracts attention. After driving through New Jersey into Manhattan, it sure does create a stir. I've driven very few cars that elicit the response of this one. Heads turn, people do a double take and camera phones are pulled out to snap a quick picture.

The weekend after the launch, I was in Detroit for the Woodward Dream Cruise, reportedly the world's largest one-day automotive event, attracting about a million people.

Tens of thousands of vehicles of all eras from Ford Model Ts to the 2009s cruised Woodward Avenue and in the mix were a number of the 2008 SRT8s. Again heads turned and people pointed out the new Challenger to their friends.

Chrysler executives say they're excited about the prospects for the Challenger because of the buzz it creates in the marketplace.

It's great news for the folks at the Brampton Assembly Plant because it gives them another model, along with the Chrysler 300 and Dodge Charger, now that the Dodge Magnum wagon has been discontinued.

While the new Challenger boasts a striking resemblance to the Challengers of the '70s, the similarities end there.

This is a modern-day muscle car that handles like a sport sedan. On the road, the Challenger feels nimble, but you know you're in a solid car. The interior quality is better than most current Chrysler offerings, although a bit on the stark side, like muscle cars of the past.

The '09 Challenger bears more than a striking resemblance to its 1970s namesake. However, the updated version is truly a modern day muscle car that has power to spare, yet handles like a sport sedan.

For those like yours truly who have been pining for a Challenger of years gone by, but can't afford the inflated price tag, here's your chance.

Star power boosts Honda FCX Clarity

Honda has announced that its second FCX Clarity customer, Jamie Lee Curtis, took delivery of the vehicle recently.

Curtis and husband Christopher Guest are the second of roughly 200 customers who will begin leasing the vehicle in the United States and Japan over the next three years.

"I really wasn't expecting it to be so luxurious," said Curtis.

"I love the interior layout, design and access to controls. It is user-friendly and very modern."

Actress and children's book author Curtis and her filmmaker husband live in Santa Monica, Calif.

They have owned other alternative fuel and hybrid vehicles and continue to seek out ways to live and advocate a greener lifestyle.

Jamie Lee Curtis, second customer of Honda's FCX Clarity hydrogen fuel cell-powered vehicle, is shown at a hydrogen filling station in West Los Angeles.

The FCX Clarity is a next-generation, hydrogen-powered fuel cell vehicle. Significant advances over Honda's previous generation FCX include a 25 per cent increase in combined fuel economy and a greater than 30 per cent increase in driving range up to 280 miles.

Propelled by an electric motor that runs on electricity generated in the fuel cell, the vehicle's only by-products are heat and water.

Also, its fuel efficiency is three times that of a modern gasoline-powered automobile.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Toyota changes prices on nine of its models

Toyota Canada has announced pricing changes on nine models.

The revised pricing reflects new specifications changes, new 2009 model year introductions and retaining competitively priced products with the U.S. and Canadian markets.

The list of 2009 model year Toyota vehicles launching soon include:

Yaris with a trunk offers a new starting MSRP (Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price) of $13,945. Starting Sept. 15, 2008, Yaris Hatchback will carry a new starting MSRP of $13,210.

A newly revised RAV4 now starts at an MSRP of $26,500.

Prius, following a $1,900 reduction on 2008 models on July 1, has a new MSRP for its 2009 models. The 2009 base model now carries a starting MSRP of $27,400, a reduction of $200 following a change to the standard equipment alloy wheels.

Sienna, as announced earlier this month, now carries a lower starting MSRP of $28,990.

Toyota dealers will be selling the popular Prius for $200 less than last year's models.

Avalon now starts at an MSRP of $37,755, Canadians will see lower introductory prices by as much as $2085 versus the comparable 2008 model while adding additional features.

Beginning Sept. 15, 2008, Highlander will carry a starting MSRP of $37,150.

The all-new Canadian-built Corolla launched earlier this year carries a new starting MSRP of $14,835, and an MSRP of $15,975 for the all-new Matrix crossover.

The new incredibly fuel-efficient **2009 PONTIAC G3 WAVE.** Seriously, look at it. That's one fun and friendly looking car. But it really knows how to give the gas pump the cold shoulder. Still, even though 5.7L/100 KM on the highway and 7.9L/100 KM in the city[1] is bad news for the gas pump, it's great news for you. And even better news is that the G3 Wave is loaded with things like optional OnStar®, auxiliary audio input jack, five star rating for frontal impact[2], available side-impact airbags and the best coverage in Canada[3]. So, even though the G3 Wave works really hard to make the gas pump sad, it works just as hard to make you happy. **Cash Purchase Price at $11,595.***

PONTIAC G3 WAVE IGNITE THE FEELING pontiac.gm.ca

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*Cash purchase price reflects discounts only available with cash purchase price offer and not available for purchase financing or lease offers. Freight $1125 included. Licence, insurance, registration, PPSA, administration fees, duties and taxes not included. Dealers are free to set individual prices. See newspaper or your participating dealer for details. [1]When equipped with a 5-speed manual transmission, estimated 2009 ratings, based on GM testing in accordance with approved transport Canada test methods. Your actual fuel consumption may vary. [2]Equivalent Aveo model tested. US government star ratings are part of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA's) New Car Assessment Program (www.safercar.gov). [3]Whichever comes first. See dealer for limited warranty details.

Disney moms

Until Sept. 19, you can apply at *disneyworldmoms.com* to be among the 16 Disney park-savvy parents who will be named to the 2009 Walt Disney World Moms Panel. The first-ever online such panel has been fielding and answering thousands of vacation questions in 2008. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Travel

Paddling underground

Heading to the Mayan Riviera? Adventure company Alltournative is offering a new half-day outing called Rio Secreto, or Secret River, for a small groups. Equipped with helmets with flashlights, wetsuits and life jackets, the group descends to the underground river, where they can explore the caverns, stalactites, stalagmites, corals and other natural treasures hidden in the underground world. Visit *alltournative.com*. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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On safari in the English countryside

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EMMA E. FORREST
Metro World News

You'll get a genuinely Out of Africa experience when you visit Livingstone Safari Lodge, set in the glorious countryside of Kent, England.

At the first African Safari Lodge in Europe you'll get to see endangered species, including black rhinos, giraffes, ostriches, wildebeests, blackbucks and antelopes — there are more than 300 animals roaming through the reserve adjacent to the zoo.

You might be trading your panorama of the plains of Africa for a view across the Channel to the coast of France, but the trip will cost you less than a vacation to southern Africa. Otherwise, everything is as it would be on a regular safari. The experience starts with a "sundowner" aperitif on the terrace of your luxury safari tent overlooking the watering hole where you can see animals close up.

"The experience starts with a 'sundowner' aperitif on the terrace."

Next up is a six-course authentic African dinner in the "lapa" hosted by a Zimbabwean ranger, who will teach you all about African wildlife and the conservation work done by the park to protect and breed endangered species with the aim of returning them safely to their homeland.

You'll get a wake-up call and a coffee and croissants at dawn so you can set off in your safari 4x4 across the 100-acre African Experience reserve to catch the animals as they hunt for their first snack of the day.

You'll get your own, typically generous safari breakfast when you get back to the lodge, before setting off for the main park to meet the other animals in-residence, including tigers, snow and clouded leopards, red pandas, howler monkeys, black rhino, elephants and gorillas.

METRO WORLD NEWS

More than 300 exotic African animals, some endangered, roam the grounds of Livingstone Safari Lodge in Kent, England.

On the web

- Visit *totallywild.net* for more information about Livingstone Safari Lodge.

Smitten with Slovenia

TheTravelJunkie

Julia Dimon

juliadimon.com

Europe and I don't usually get along. Expensive, predictable and overrun with tourists, central Europe is a part of the world my wandering spirit and wallet like to avoid.

I prepared for my trip to Slovenia with a little research. Bordering Italy, Croatia, Hungary and Austria, the Republic of Slovenia gained independence from the former region of Yugoslavia in 1991. A population of 2 million, most of them Roman Catholic, Slovenia has its own language, but English is widely spoken.

Since it's officially in central Europe, I had to expect the usual: crowded attractions, octogenarian tour buses and an unforgiving Euro that kicks our currency's butt. Instead, I discovered Slovenia is a hidden gem.

My trip started in Ljubljana, a vibrant capital city that exists off the radar of most travellers. With outdoor cafes, cool artistic communities, trendy boutiques and some of the best fire-roasted pizza I've ever had, I was hooked. Days were spent touring the Old Town, caramel gelato in hand, gazing up at Baroque architecture. Nights were spent sipping local beer, debating with students about which one was better — Lasko or Union?

From Ljubljana, I traveled to Bled, a tiny community on the edge of Triglav National Park. Set against a backdrop of the snow capped Julian Alps, Bled "bleeds" medieval charm and romance.

Visitors can take a boat tour to the church of St. Mary in the middle of the lake. From there, after walking up the 99 steps to the top of the cathedral, tourists have a chance to make all their wishes come true. Legend has it that if you honor the Virgin Mary by ringing the church bell three times, your wish will be granted.

I tried, pulling hard on the fraying rope, but getting the bell to ring only three times is harder than it seems. You really have to yank, and with overzealous force comes a bell that rings too many times.

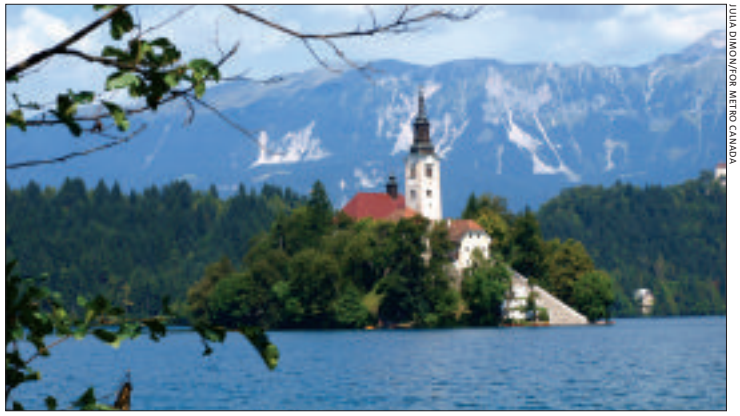
Maybe it was the legend, maybe it was the fresh air, the tranquility of the lake's thermal waters or the euphoria of a wedding party that was taking place at the time, but there was something truly magical about Bled. The whole area is quaint with a capital Q.

One of the smallest Central-European countries, Slovenia offers a range of natural beauty, from underground caves to picturesque waterfalls and mountain peaks.

Since it's all about nature, the list of outdoor activities is long: cycling, hiking, rafting, skiing — you name it.

From trendy Ljubljana to the foothills of the Alps, I found myself completely smitten with Slovenia. The landscape is gorgeous, the city streets squeaky clean and there is a Mediterranean vibe of sophistication, without the pretension — or price of other Euro countries.

Julia Dimon is co-host of Word Travels, airing on OLN; juliadimon.com.



JULIA DIMON/FOR METRO CANADA

Bled, at the foothills of Slovenia's Julian Alps, is known for it's tranquil waters and churches.

"Set against a backdrop of the snow capped Julien Mountains, Bled 'bleeds' medieval charm."

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Rumer Willis to guest on CSI: NY
Rumer Willis, daughter of actors Demi Moore and Bruce Willis, will be playing a character by the name of Mac Taylor in CSI: NY's 100th episode that is scheduled to air on Nov. 19. EW.COM

Entertainment

Hanks tribute
The Film Society of Lincoln Centre will pay tribute to actor Tom Hanks at its annual gala tribute on April 27, citing Hanks' talent of making "a good man compelling." IMDB.COM

EDITOR: TINA COSTANZA, TINA.COSTANZA@METRONEWS.CA

No love for Myers' Guru in India

Mike Myers in The Love Guru

MOVIES Leading Hindu groups are urging film bosses not to release Mike Myers' comedy flop The Love Guru in India for fear of riots on the streets, imdb.com reports.

Officials at the Universal Society of Hinduism have joined with other leading groups to call for a nationwide ban on the movie, claiming funnyman Myers mocks the religion in the film.

Metallica set to rock U.S. chart

MUSIC Metallica's first album in five years will take the No. 1 slot on the U.S. pop chart when sales data is issued today, according to preliminary estimates.

Informed sources estimate Death Magnetic sold 450,000-500,000 copies across the United States during the week ended Sept. 14, Reuters reports. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Igor's monster mash-up

Animated Frankenstein spinoff blends new, old themes

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

From Kung Fu Panda to Wall-E to Star Wars: The Clone Wars. These days, computer-animated movies seem to hit theatres every other week. In such an oversaturated movie market, what will make Igor — a modern twist on the classic monster movie — stand out among the rest?

"I haven't seen anything like it but it reminded me of those old films I saw in the '60s and '70s," says the film's lead voice actor John Cusack during a recent interview in Los Angeles.

"Old movies that were around when the Beatles were doing Yellow Submarine. There was some strange animation back then."

A spinoff of the classic story of Frankenstein, Igor — it hits theatres on Friday — does add a slightly gothic take on the now common family film. Intended to have a style unlike most animated features, director Tony Leondis has said that he wanted "the world to be a collage of the Middle Ages and gothic England with a touch of pop sixties."

Igor — a spinoff of the Frankenstein story — opens in theatres Friday.

"I love it because it's different than any other animated film we've seen in years," says Sean Hayes (from TV's Will & Grace) who provides the voice for the character of Brain — a brain in a jar. "It's got sharp edges and corners and it's not soft and flowy."

Where the look of the film lacks in, as Hayes describes, "flowiness," it does make up in a redeeming story. Igor (Cusack) is a slurring hunchback lab assistant who, with the help of Brain, builds his own monster named Eva (Molly Shannon).

Only this monster turns out to be anything but evil. Instead, she is a wholesome, aspiring actress with one gigantic arm and a heart of gold.

"I love that she was so sweet," says Shannon, most recognized for her work on Saturday Night Live. "She keeps to her dramatic studies, working on her voice and her body and (I like) how sweet and innocent she is.

"Now I'm a jaded old broad but when I first started acting, I was really like that," adds Shannon. "I couldn't believe I was in New York City, taking acting studies, having coffee and I was taking notes! It was such a fun time."

"I'm just starting this," jokes Hayes. "Now I'm taking notes. It took me a while."

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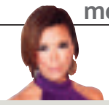

Eva could join The Avengers

Actress Eva Longoria Parker, left, is said to be set to star in the new comic book movie The Avengers as Janet Van Dyne, also known as The Wasp. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

McGregor mutes cancer news

McGregor

PEOPLE Actor Ewan McGregor is playing down his recent "cancer scare," because his life was not in question, imdb.com reports.

McGregor attempted to deal with his basal cell carcinoma quietly, but word spread he was battling cancer.

"It is scary when you hear you've got cancer," he said. "I quickly discovered it's a very common and treatable condition. I would hate to say I had a cancer scare, because it's not fair to people who really have cancer scares. In my case, my mortality wasn't called into question." METRO NEWS SERVICES

In brief

MUSIC A planned covers album by the Who, to be produced by T-Bone Burnett, is on hold but still on the radar, according to Roger Daltrey. He told Billboard.com there's "no status" on the covers project because of Burnett's duties on the road with Robert Plant and Alison Krauss. REUTERS

Sun shining on Sweet

Alt-rock icon delivers eclectic mix on first solo album in four years

BRIAN TOWIE
Metro Canada

Matthew Sweet's latest album, Sunshine Lies, was released last month.

Matthew Sweet has a good thing going baby, as he might say.

The alt-rock icon who cut his teeth in the burgeoning Athens, Ga., scene — out of which came R.E.M. and the B-52s — has recently released Sunshine Lies, the latest in a low-profile but critically acclaimed canon that has spanned more than 20 years.

An eclectic collection of upbeat power-poppers set to melancholy narratives, mellotron-accented white noise and ballads that muse on retreats from personal pain — Sweet's work is notorious for it — Sunshine Lies been called a return to form by the press, and is currently the toast of American indie record stores.

"It was about blissful, willful ignorance. I was trying to reconcile the hopelessness of everything," Sweet, now 43, says of the title track over the phone from his home recording studio in Los Angeles. "It was originally supposed to be called Rock Bottom, but I renamed it and then this psychedelic song grew out of the title. It was more 'out there,' which is what I liked."

Long time coming for Sweet's first solo album in four years, though; He recorded Sunshine Lies over more than 18 months between collaborative projects, including a double-album of 1960s pop covers with ex-Bangle Susanna Hoffs, who also makes an appearance on Sunshine Lies (The pair incidentally, has begun work on a cover album of songs from the 1970s, one of them being Blue Oyster Cult's Don't Fear The Reaper).

"I did have it ready, but it was too super-rock, and I didn't want it all as just one thing. So I moved to other stuff and I remixed it," Sweet said. "Then the label told me, 'Deadline, deadline, deadline. Turn it in!"

Sweet's latest is also the toast of American indie record stores. The LP version of the album, which features four bonus tracks and a CD version as well, came in at No. 2 on CIMS' (Coalition of Independent Music Stores) vinyl chart in early September. It's a trend he's seeing more at his gigs.

"I'm the king of vinyl," he laughs. "Probably not for long though. It's a growing story; the last show I did, people were buying up the vinyl version of the album."

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Ledger's bar set for debut

Late actor Heath Ledger's Brooklyn, N.Y.-based bar, Five Leaves, is scheduled to open to the public today. It is now funded by his estate and run by his business partner Jud Mongell. TVGUIDE.COM

PETER MACDIARMID/GETTY IMAGES FILE PHOTO

Damien Hirst

Artist Hirst's sale breaks record

ART Multi-millionaire artist Damien Hirst wildly exceeded expectations yesterday with a record-breaking sale of 218 items for 111 million pounds ($198 million US), underscoring the resilience of the high-end art market.

A further two items were sold privately on Monday and three remained unsold yesterday after the unprecedented sale that bypassed the traditional dealer network and instead went direct to the auction rooms of Sotheby's in London.

"It is iconic; inherently British," said one bidder at the Sotheby's auction who asked to remain anonymous. "His work challenges people, and visually it is stunning."

Despite a global economic downturn, the auction put paid to fears Hirst's mammoth clear-out sale could flood the art market and hit prices.

REUTERS

City-shot film opens Friday

Charlize Theron, left, stars in Battle in Seattle, which was filmed in Vancouver, and singer Sarah McLachlan mourns her marriage breakup on her new greatest hits album.

GETTY IMAGES FILE PHOTOS

HollywoodNorth

Andrea Woo
andrea.woo@metronews.ca
Andrea Woo is a Vancouver-based news and entertainment reporter.

Sarah McLachlan is the latest songstress to immortalize her breakup on an album.

The Halifax-born singer told Billboard.com last week that two new songs from her upcoming greatest hits album due out Oct. 7 — U Want Me 2 and Don't Give Up On Us — are about her split from her husband of 11 years, **Ashwin Sood**, who also plays drums in her band.

"I wasn't planning on saying anything but it's going to come out at some point," she told the online arm of the music mag. "I haven't said anything about it because I've been terrified to, but I figure … there's no good time to say it, so I just said it."

McLachlan, Sood and their two daughters live in Vancouver.

The movie that brought **Andre 3000**, **Woody Harrelson** and **Charlize Theron** to the streets of Vancouver will begin its staggered release dates this Friday.

Battle in Seattle, about the five days in 1999 in which activists rioted in the streets of Seattle to protest the World Trade Organization ministerial conference, was shot predominantly in the city in recognizable locations including the University of B.C.'s Point Grey campus, the Vancouver Public Library and Granville Square.

RANDOM ROUND-UP: B.C. bookworm **Pamela Anderson** recently gave her two cents about republican vice-presidential nominee **Sarah Palin**. "I can't stand her," said the brainy beauty. "She can suck it."

Cybercriminals use stars' names to lure victims

Looking for information about Brad Pitt or Beyoncé on the Web? It could be risky.

An Internet security firm has dubbed the actor and singer the most dangerous celebrities to search for on the Internet because cybercriminals use their names to lure victims.

California-based McAfee Inc. said fans searching for information and pictures of Pitt, or downloads, wallpaper and screen savers, have an 18 per cent chance of having their PCs infected with a virus, spyware, spam, phishing and adware.

Pitt

Beyoncé

"Cybercriminals employ numerous methods, yet one of the simplest but most effective ways is to trick consumers into infecting themselves by capitalizing on Americans' interest in celebrity gossip," explained Jeff Green, senior vice-president of McAfee's Product Development & Avert Labs.

"Tapping into current events, pop culture or commonly browsed sites is an easy way to achieve this," he added in a statement.

Web surfers looking for celebrity gossip, screen savers and ringtones are often directed to fake Internet sites that look legitimate but pose a risk to the security of their computers, according to the company.

REUTERS

Caught in web

- Other celebrities on McAfee Inc.'s most dangerous list include singers Mariah Carey, Rihanna and Fergie and film stars Angelina Jolie, Jessica Alba, Cameron Diaz and George Clooney. REUTERS

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Entertainment in brief

CASTING Andie MacDowell, Cary Elwes and Brian Cox star in the thriller As Good as Dead, which is shooting in New York. Elwes plays a left-wing extremist who goes on the run after killing a clergyman (Cox) involved with a white supremacist group. MacDowell plays the widow who hunts him down.

CASTING Sci Fi Channel is fleshing out the cast of its Children of the Corn remake, which is set to air next year. The TV movie, based on the Stephen King novel, features David Anders (NBC's Heroes) and Kandyse McClure (Sci Fi's Battlestar Galactica).

STAGE An Australian theatre company run by Oscar-winning actress Cate Blanchett is joining forces with a British theatre troupe and a New York group to collaborate on productions internationally. The Sydney Theatre Company will link with London's Trafalgar Studios and New York's LAByrinth Theater Company, co-founded by actor Philip Seymour Hoffman in 1992.

REUTERS

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Pacific Centre
Terasen Centre
2163 West 4th Ave.
501 West Georgia St.
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3343 West Broadway
2748 Rupert St.
1 - 525 Seymour St.
150 - 625 Howe St.
105 - 950 West Broadway
1707 Robson St.
1092 Kingsway
10 - 3490 Kingsway
205 - 896 Cambie St.
102 - 229 Keefer St.
220 East 1st Ave.

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Brentwood Mall
Crystal Square
Lougheed Mall
Metrotown/Metropolis
214B - 4501 North Rd.
4711 Kingsway
7531 Market Crossing
111 - 3823 Henning Dr.
204B - 3430 Brighton Ave.

Coquitlam
Coquitlam Centre
101 - 3278 Westwood St.
5 - 3000 Lougheed Hwy.
2700B Barnet Hwy.
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Aberdeen Centre
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Parker Place
Richmond Centre
115 - 12571 Bridgeport Rd.

WHISTLER

7009 Nesters Rd.

Pemberton
6 - 1366 Aster St.

Thirds for chef?

Chef Jamie Oliver, left, has reportedly revealed that he would love to add a son to his family even if that means adopting. He and his wife, Jools, already have two daughters. **FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK**

HBO going old, old school

HBO — THE NEW PBS? There was a day when U.S. public television was known for its quality documentaries and period costume dramas — the latter usually imported from Britain — but every time I tune in these days they're either showing some dubious motivational speaker holding forth to an audience of retirees about either money or health, or in the middle a filmed concert featuring doo-wop or reconstituted classic rock bands performing for an audience of the same retirees who've had a chance to change from their sport jackets to those oversized, high-quality t-shirts that look like they're dry-cleaned.

Last weekend I was leapfrogging up the dial to the local PBS affiliate hoping at least for a rerun of As Time Goes By, only to be treated to the sexagenarian Troggs in the middle of Wild Thing, part of a night of garage and frat rock bands in front of the usual audience of semi-ecstatic grandparents. Not just during fundraising drives but during the balance of the broadcasting year, PBS has become the house network of the AARP.

A stray spark leapt across the synapses this week when I read about the latest show to get greenlit by HBO. It's been fascinating watching the jewel in the crown of quality cable during these last few post-Sopranos/Sex And The City years, as it's been struggling to restore its vitality and reputation in the face of misfires and executive shakeups while one-time also-rans like Showtime, FX and AMC have stepped into the void they've left behind.

A massive new hit from HBO would not only be nice for them, it would be the uplifting last chapter to a story about how a commercial entity lost and then rediscovered its creative inspiration against all apparent odds.

That's a 5,000-word magazine story I'd love to read. HBO is going about reviving its mojo in a curious way; a historical miniseries about the largely unsung second president of the United States has been its most recent critical hit, and they've taken that as a cue and given the go-ahead to Manhunt, a new miniseries about the 12-day search for John Wilkes Booth, the assassin of Abraham Lincoln, in the days just following the end of the U.S. Civil War.

Manhunt will reunite David Simon, the creator of HBO's The Wire, with Tom Fontana, the man behind Oz, for the first time since Fontana turned a book Simon had written as a crime reporter in Baltimore into the NBC series Homicide. It was originally conceived as an action-oriented thriller featuring Harrison Ford as the cavalry officer who finally corners Booth. But the option on Ford ran out, according to a story in Broadcasting & Cable magazine, and Simon and Fontana decided to take the story in a less Jack Ryanesque direction.

"I don't do action," said Simon.

One can't help but speculate how far HBO can go down this road — perhaps a real-time series about the decimation of Galveston, Texas by a hurricane in 1900 (complete with bludgeoning parallels to Katrina, and a groaning comparison of William McKinley to George W. Bush), or a sordid expose of the melodramatic goings-on in the Woodrow Wilson White House during World War One. HBO has about 20 years to kill, after all, until it can start airing concerts featuring reunited grunge bands.

U.S. TV network HBO has reportedly been in a creative funk since this scene from The Sopranos aired more than a year ago.

IntelleVision

Rick McGinnis
rick.mcginnis@metronews.ca

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

Going Out

- 1 p.m. Twelfth Night on the mainstage at Bard on the Beach. At Vanier Park. Tix: $18. Info: *bardonthebeach.org*
- 5:30 p.m. The Invincible Sound of Summer Tour featuring Common and N.E.R.D. At the Malkin Bowl in Stanley Park. Tix: $45. Info: *ticketmaster.ca*
- 8 p.m. The Blend back-to-school special with DJ Kenya and guests and the Boyscouts. At Pop Opera, 686 West Hastings. Info: *dhmbars.ca*
- 8 p.m. Brazil's CCS (Cansei de sur Sexy). At the Commodore Ballroom, 868 Granville St. Tix: $23.50. Info: *ticketmaster.ca*
- 9 p.m. Ms. Planet Beach bikini contest. At Ceili's Irish Pub, 670 Smithe St. Info: *ceilis.com*

Affleck back in director's chair?

MOVIES Ben Affleck is in negotiations to direct, rewrite and star in The Town, a dark heist-romance hybrid.

Affleck

The Warner Bros. project involves a high-tension love triangle between a female bank manager, a longtime thief who stole more than her heart and an equally smitten FBI agent trying to bust the crook and his gang before they can pull another big job. Affleck directed his similarly toned first film, Gone Baby Gone, last year. He won an Oscar in 1998 for writing Good Will Hunting with Matt Damon.

Rockwell, Corddry score roles

MOVIES Sam Rockwell and Rob Corddry are going back to school with teen actress Emma Roberts in the indie comedy The Winning Season.

Rockwell plays a has-been coach who is given a shot at redemption when he's asked to run the local high school's girls basketball team. Roberts is cast as a player he befriends, and Corddry will play the school's principal. **REUTERS**

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VA	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 9/17/08	251	308	3 CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	Little Mosque	Sophie	CBC News: the fifth estate		CBC News: The National (N)		(:05) The Hour
	255	358	6 JOY	E! News	The Insider	To Be Announced				True Hollywood Story (CC)		News (N)
	254	-	8 M	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Mandarin News		Cantonese News (N)		Punjabi News (In Punjabi N)		Metropia
	250	321	9 CTV	eTalk (CC)	Hollywood	So You Think You Can Dance Canada (N) (CC) (DVS)				CSI: NY "Hostage" (CC)		News (N)
	-	-	10 OMNI	Scrubs (CC)	According-Jim	The Practice "Part IV" (CC)		Third Watch (CC)		The Daily	Diya (CC)	New Day
	252	336	11 GTV	Entertainment	ET Canada	Bones (N) (PA) (CC)		Wipeout (Season Finale) (N) (CC)			The Office	News (N)
	256	389	12 VI	Robson Arms	TMZ (N) (CC)	America's Next Top Model (N)		America's Got Talent The top 10 contestants. (CC)				News (CC)
	253	359	13 CITY	Law & Order: SVU		Secret Life of American Teen		Hell's Kitchen (CC)		Friends (CC)	Most Amazing	Reviews
	-	-	14 CW	Deal-No Deal	Deal-No Deal	America's Next Top Model (N)		90210 "The Bubble" (CC)		Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Frasier (CC)
	289	381	15 CBS	Entertainment	The Insider	Old Christine	Old Christine	Criminal Minds "Lo-Fi" (CC)		CSI: NY "Hostage" (CC)		News (N)
	287	379	16 NBC	Evening Mag.	Inside Edition	America's Got Talent The top 10 contestants. (CC)				Law & Order: Criminal Intent		News (N)
	602	568	19 W	Will & Grace	Friends (CC)	Grocery Bag	What You Eat	Supersize vs. Superskinny (N)		Gok's Fashion Fix (N)		Style by Jury
	288	380	21 ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Wife Swap "Tassie/Tyson"		20/20: The Royal Family British monarchy. (CC)				News (N)
	-	-	26 KVOS	M*A*S*H	Seinfeld	Article 99 ★★★ (1992, Drama) Ray Liotta, Kiefer Sutherland.				Cheers (CC)	Still Standing	Scrubs (CC)
	291	383	27 PBS	Back Care Basics: Yoga		Live From Lincoln Center (N) (CC)				Great Performances "Pavarotti: A Life in Seven Arias" (CC)		
	290	382	28 FOX	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Bones (N) (PA) (CC)		'Til Death (N)	Do Not	News (N) (CC)		Family Guy
	-	364	48 PBS	Stay Rich Forever & Ever		Best of Johnny Cash Show		The Answers Within With Dr. Isabel (CC)			Pride and Passion Italians	
	296	654	54 SBK	Frasier (CC)	Frasier (CC)	Cheers (CC)	South Park	Comics Un.	Half & Half	The Insider	Entertainment	Paid Program
	298	653	55 TLA	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	America's Next Top Model (N)		90210 "The Bubble" (CC)		KTLA Prime News (CC)		Friends (CC)
	295	651	66 WGN	WGN News at Nine (N) (CC)		Family Guy	Two/Half Men	According-Jim	Sex and-City	Friends (CC)	Will & Grace	My Wife-Kids
	297	652	67 WPX	CW11 News at Ten		Two/Half Men	Friends (CC)	Sex and-City	Will & Grace	Frasier (CC)	George Lopez	Odd Couple
	199	311	76 STR	News (N)	News		Late Show-Letterman		ET Canada	Entertainment	Kitchen Nightmares (CC)	
news	502	390	29 NW	Monarchy: The Royal Family		CBC News: The National (N)		CBC News: The National		Politics with Don Newman		The Hour (N)
	500	500	69 CNN	Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)				Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)		Cooper 360
sports	407	419	22 RSP	(6:00) UFC Fight Night (Taped)				The Ultimate Fighter		Sportsnet Connected		Sportsnet
	400	400	30 TSN	SportsCentre (Live) (CC)			Off the Record	UEFA Champions League Soccer Real Madrid vs. FC Bate.				SportsCentre
	411	457	49 OLN	Word Travels	Globe Guides	Pilot Guides "Madagascar"		Don't Forget Your Passport		Mantracker "Jordan & Suzie"		Ed's Up (CC)
	410	403	50 SCR	Score Tonight		Final Score	Final Score	Final Score	Final Score	Sports Rage		Final Score
	417	406	65 SC	Wrecked	Wrecked	Pinks	Pass Time	Am. Thunder	Am. Thunder	Pinks	Pinks Out	Wrecked
	416	409	444 GLF	Fútbol Español: Equipos SA		Gol TV News		American Soccer		Paid Program	Kings Club	Gol TV News
family	552	543	25 YTV	Malcolm-Mid.	Home Imp.	Prank Patrol	Futurama	Prank Patrol	Mystery Hnt.	Adrenaline	Prank Patrol	Mystery Hnt.
	555	545	50 TEL	George	Bugs Bunny & Tweety Show		6teen	Total Drama	Futurama	The Critic (N)	Chicken	Lucy Devil
	557	541	51 FAM	Wizards-Place	That's-Raven	Zack & Cody	Natural-Sadie	Han. Montana	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House	The Suite Life
	553	546	56 TRE	Comfy Couch	Rolie Polie	Beren. Bears	Babar (CC)	Backyard	Dora-Explorer	Go, Diego, Go!	The Bittles	Comfy Couch
cable variety	268	354	3 KNO	Meerkat	Undersea	Black Coffee (CC)		Gala From Berlin 2006 (CC)				Buffy St Marie
	575	583	20 CMT	Home Imp.	Home Imp.	Little Big Town Live		Reba (CC)	Hope & Faith	Home Imp.	Home Imp.	Ed "Partners"
	570	580	24 MM	MTV's Top Pop Group			Technical Diff.	Punk'd (CC)	MTV's Top Pop Group			Spotlight
	600	564	29 H&G	Flipping Out		Holmes	Holmes	Property Shop	City	Property	Unsellable	Flipping Out
	615	520	31 A&E	Criss Angel	Criss Angel	Criss Angel Mindfreak (CC)		Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Criss Angel
	628	584	32 SPKE	The Ultimate Fighter (N)		MANswers (N)	MANswers (N)	UFC Fight Night				Deep Space 9
	521	560	34 TLC	Lottery Changed My Life III		Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate Plus 8 Road		Lottery Changed My Life III		Jon & Kate
	616	522	39 SHO	Kink in Hair	Kink in Hair	Billable Hours	Billable Hours	Durham County (CC)		The Riches "Field of Dreams"		House (CC)
	620	523	40 BVO	Arts & Minds	The Achievers	Law & Order "Bad Girl" (CC)		Without a Trace "Primed"		Brown Sugar ★★ (2002) Taye Diggs. (CC)		
	601	562	41 SLC	Inside Hollywood (CC)		X-Weighted Robin's cooking.		Work Out (CC)		Inside Hollywood (CC)		Trading Sp
	520	505	42 DIS	Mayday "Fatal Distraction"		Daily Planet (CC)		MythBusters "Pirates 2!"		Cash Cab	Factory Made	Mayday (CC)
	522	506	44 HIS	NCIS "Suspicion" (CC)		Cities of the Underworld		Moby Dick: The True Story		NCIS "Suspicion" (CC)		Crime Stories
	627	528	45 SPC	Ghost Hunters International		Stargate SG-1 "Avalon"		Lost "The Moth" (CC)		Star Trek: Deep Space Nine		Star Trek
	294	650	47 TBS	House-Payne	House-Payne	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	Sex and-City	Sex and-City	Heat ★★★ (1995) (PA) Al Pacino. (CC) (DVS)		
	619	525	48 TROP	Beverly Hills, 90210 (CC)		Reality	What	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	'70s Show	Family Guy
	603	561	62 FN	Jamie's Return to School Dinners (CC)			Dinner	Iron Chef America (CC)		Jamie's Return to School Dinners (CC)		
	626	547	57 COM	Air Farce	Just for Laughs (CC)		Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	Lewis Black	RENO 911!	Daily Show
	320	621	60 CEN	(5:45) Across the Universe		True Blood "The First Taste"		The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford ★★★ (2007)				
	581	566	101 MTV	Run's House	Run's House	MTV Live	After	From G's to Gents (CC)		Run's House	Run's House	MTV Live
	261	394	102 V	Enigma (N) (CC)		Hope Island (CC)		Chambers	No Place Like	Darling Buds of May (CC)		Paid Program
	-	-	106 MUL	Matchmaker	Daughters	Van. Nights	Iranian Pop	Sabor Latino		Hola Que Tal		Patrol World

critics' corner

Gok's Fashion Fix

Even those who think fashion-related television is dull — who can afford those clothes, anyway, and what real person looks good in them? — will like this new series hosted by Gok Wan ("How to Look Good Naked"). He shows how to replicate designer looks for a fraction of the cost, while sidekick Alexa Chung stages humorous "road tests" of hot styles. Other segments include designer interviews and celebrity wardrobe prowls. Good times! 10 PM on W

The Riches

Depression isn't easy to cure, but Wayne (Eddie Izzard) is getting desperate, as Hugh's (Gregg Henry) mental state is threatening to scuttle the Bayou Hills deal. While trying to save Hugh, he's also forced to deal with more of Eden Falls' prominent citizens when Cael (Noel Fisher) gets into trouble at school. Minnie Driver and Shannon Marie Woodward also star in "Field of Dreams." 10 PM on SHO

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Kidman to sponsor awards

Actress Nicole Kidman will sponsor awards for best male and best female actor at Tropfest NY on Sept. 26, an event honouring achievement in short filmmaking. PEOPLE.COM

Celebrity Buzz

Sienna fans outraged by 'affair'

ONLINE The fallout continues from actress Sienna Miller's romance with actor Balthazar Getty, MSN Entertainment reports.

Her biggest fan site, Sienna-Miller.org, has decided to pack it in because of her liaison with Getty, who, while still married, is no longer with his wife.

"We do not know the whole story behind this affair, and some may argue it is not our place to judge BUT when Sienna can cavort so publicly and so shamelessly with this man who IS married and does have four children (including a baby only a few months old) with his wife, my respect for her goes out of the window," writes the webmaster. "One minute she says she wants to be taken seriously as an actress and she's sick of all the false stories about her in the press ... and the next she's topless on a beach with a married man's hands all over her — come on Sienna, you know the paparazzi are going to be around. If she was serious about being taken seriously, she would, well, not display herself so publicly like this."

Unless a suitable replacement is found, the site will soon close up shop for good.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

Victoria talks muse

CAREER Former Spice Girl Victoria Beckham has written a heartfelt letter about her fashion dreams coming true — and how husband David inspires her new men's line, People.com reports.

"This past year has been amazing, not only as a mother and wife but as the Creative Director of my label 'dVb by Victoria Beckham,' " Victoria, 34, writes on her website. "In just under two years dVb has grown from a passionate idea into collections which are stocked in top stores around the world – something I only used to dream of."

Fuelling her dream, as her label leaps the gender gap, is her spouse.

"The label grows as I do," she writes. "Along with women's denim the dVb mens collection has just launched, and who better than David to be my muse!"

METRO NEWS SERVICES

celebrity brief

Thieves spare Moss' ring

CRIME Model Kate Moss is relieved a $360,000 US ring was spared after vandals targeted her car, imdb.com reports.

The 34-year-old was stunned when thieves broke into her Range Rover outside her north London home, and feared her solitaire diamond ring had been stolen in the raid.

But Moss was delighted to learn the vandals only retrieved $18 and a box of chocolates.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

celebrity brief

Allen excited about album

MUSIC Lily Allen has revealed that her new album is to be released on Feb. 9, the Daily Mirror reports.

"I am so excited, we're getting all the artwork and stuff done and coming up with new and interesting ideas," Allen posted on her Myspace blog about her latest offering. "I hope you'll all love it as much as I do."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Federline warns Paris

PEOPLE Kevin Federline has warned Paris Hilton to stay away from Britney Spears, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The dancer and rapper, who has two children with ex-wife Spears, told the hotel heiress to leave the singer alone because she does not need any bad influences in her life.

Federline reportedly told the socialite he does not want Spears to return to her troubled lifestyle for the sake of his children Sean Preston, 3, and Jayden James, 2.

"It was quite a chilling warning," a source told Britain's Daily Star newspaper.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Rihanna's troubled childhood

PEOPLE Rihanna rarely gets drunk because she was taught the dangers of booze by her reportedly alcoholic father, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The Barbados-born star recently revealed that her childhood was blighted by her dad's alleged drink and drug problems, admitting that as a child she was often left to care for her younger brothers while her mother was at work.

But Rihanna insists that the behaviour of her father — who left home when she was nine — taught her some valuable lessons.

"I'd go out and get drunk in Barbados, but I never went over the top," she says.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

"This makes no sense at all..."

by Joe O'Neill

So it sounds like **Victoria Beckham** has finally revealed the secret of her design success. She says hubby David, famous footballer, is her muse. Victoria ought to be careful about relying too much on her husband for design inspiration. All his ideas are bound to be so 'footy-focussed' they may not be quite Project Runway worthy.

Allow me to do what I always do when I have no actual evidence to back up my thesis, and simply make up examples that I imagine may result.

Jewel Protection Pants are fashionable slacks with the interesting added feature: a pair of padded, crossed hands strategically sewn across the crotch. You'll never be ill-prepared for a surprise free kick again, even if it happens at the club.

The Red Card is an attempt to bring back the classy jacket pocket puff, albeit in the form of a bright red square which the dashing young dandy can pull out just like a referee anytime he wishes to banish an offending 'player' from the dance floor, a restaurant or taxi cab.

Because no outfit is complete without footwear, Rooney Runners, named in honour of dynamic but frequently imbibing English player Wayne Rooney, are basic white sneaks with a twist. They're tastefully splattered in decorative fake vomit.

NEWSDESK@METRONEWS.CA

Leo and Bar off again

ROMANCE The light-switch romance of actor Leonardo DiCaprio and model Bar Refaeli is off again, the New York Daily News reports.

The pair have been partying apart over the past few weeks.

Refaeli appears bereft, sources say, like she's looking for a good time but not finding it.

As for DiCaprio, the good times find him. A brunette reportedly glommed onto him at a New York Club recently, but the source adds they did not exchange phone numbers.

DiCaprio and Refaeli's relationship has been bumpy since they met in 2005, including a split in October 2007.

"With these two, you never know, and they probably don't either," says one friend.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Hudson's best/worst dates

RELATIONSHIPS If you're trying to woo actress Kate Hudson, don't be boring, People.com reports.

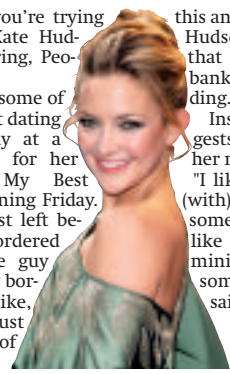
Hudson shared some of her best and worst dating moments recently at a press conference for her new comedy, My Best Friend's Girl, opening Friday.

"One date, I just left before we even ordered food because the guy was just so deeply boring that it was like, 'I'm going to just save us from all of this and just leave,' " said Hudson, 29, adding that her date "was in banking. I'm not kidding."

Instead, Hudson suggests other ways to get her motor running.

"I like to be surprised (with) something fun or something different, like racing cars ... or miniature golf or something," Hudson said

METRO NEWS SERVICES



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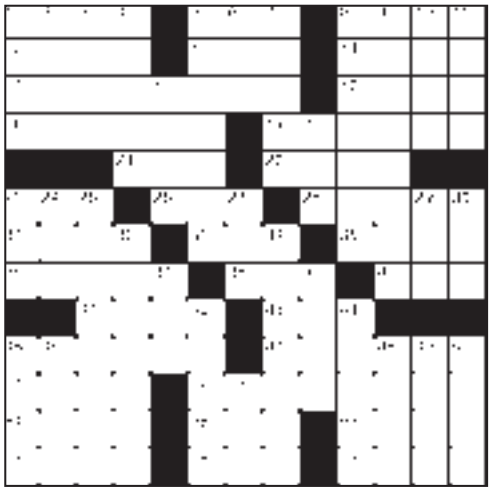


Sudoku

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

7					1	2	5	
	9			4		3	8	
1			8					9
				8			1	5
		1				9		
6	2			9				
3					9			7
	7	4		2			3	
	6	2	7					8

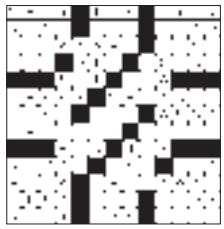
Crossword across

1 Lone Ranger trademark
5 Tit for —
8 Big bothers
12 Killer whale
13 Miners' gathering
14 Unuttered "alas"
15 Muscle relaxant
17 Part of TLC
18 Wooden shoes
19 USNA freshmen
21 Lennon's love
22 One of the Jackson 5
23 Dancer Charisse
26 Help
28 Cockpit occupant
31 Raised platform
33 Prune
35 Farewell, in Florence
36 Make like Torvill and Dean
38 "A mouse!"
40 Weep
41 Actress Sorvino
43 Have a bug
45 Snuck a look
47 Nap
51 Mortgage datum
52 Oblique
54 Microwave, e.g.
55 A billion years
56 Dines
57 Twerp
58 Trench
59 Being (Lat.)

Crossword down

1 1960s London subculturists
2 Met melody
3 Wound cover
4 Buzzing instrument
5 It's turned when plowing
6 Coach Parseghian
7 Lure
8 Spartan
9 Fiendish
10 Shrek is one
11 "Take Her, — Mine"
16 Sicilian spouter
20 Back talk
23 LPs' successors
24 Tibetan beast
25 Twice the radius
27 Buck's mate
29 Rowing tool
30 Plaything
32 Wages
34 Lowly one
37 Before
39 Chess piece
42 Venomous viper
44 Detached
45 Pt. of speech
46 Roof overhang
48 Responsibility
49 Uses a ray gun
50 Otherwise
53 Debt notice

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:



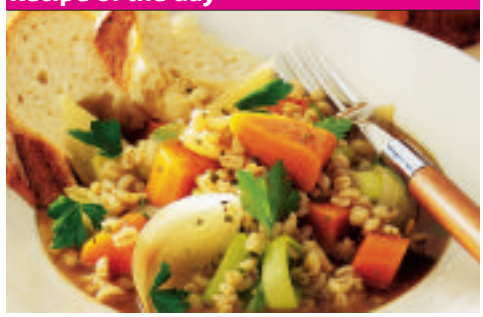
9	4	7	8	5	6	1	3	2
3	8	6	1	7	2	4	9	5
5	2	1	4	9	3	8	6	7
4	1	9	5	6	7	2	8	3
2	3	5	9	4	8	7	1	6
6	7	8	3	2	1	5	4	9
7	9	2	6	1	4	3	5	8
1	6	3	7	8	5	9	2	4
8	5	4	2	3	9	6	7	1

Find today's answers + play more games at metronews.ca

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:
Under 13 min .....Genius
13-17 min.....Scholar
17-21 min .....Smart
21-25 min.....Not bad
25+ min.....Keep practising

Recipe of the day

COOK SMART FOR A HEALTHY HEART



Roast Vegetable and Bean Stew

This easy, one-pot dish of root vegetables and pinto beans makes a nourishing fall dinner and needs no accompaniments.

INGREDIENTS:
1 small acorn squash
1 lb (500 g) new potatoes, scrubbed and cut into 1 1/2-in. (4-cm) chunks
2 carrots, cut into 1 1/2-in. (4-cm) chunks
2 parsnips, cut into 1 1/2-in. (4-cm) chunks
2 large zucchini, cut into 1 1/2-in. (4-cm) chunks
2 tsp (10 mL) olive oil
1 garlic clove, finely chopped
4 large sprigs of fresh rosemary, plus extra sprigs to garnish
2 cans (19 oz/540 mL) pinto beans, drained and rinsed
1 cup (250 mL) apple cider
1 cup (250 mL) hot low-sodium vegetable broth
Salt and pepper

METHOD:
1. Preheat the oven to 400°F (200°C). Halve the squash and remove the seeds, then peel the skin and cut the flesh into 1 1/2-in. (4-cm) chunks.
2. Put the squash in a bowl and add the potatoes, carrots, parsnips and zucchini. Drizzle the olive oil over the vegetables and toss to coat evenly. Stir in the garlic, and season lightly with salt and pepper.

3. Lay the rosemary sprigs on the bottom of a large roasting pan and spread the vegetables on top in a single layer. Roast until lightly browned, about 30 minutes, turning once.

4. Remove from the oven and stir in the pinto beans, cider and broth. Cover the pan tightly with foil, then return to the oven and cook until the vegetables are tender, about 20 to 25 minutes. Before serving, remove the rosemary stalks and garnish with fresh rosemary sprigs.

SERVES 6

rd.ca

For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to **rd.ca** or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!**

Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
You can conquer restrictions without a struggle. A stroke of luck leads to success. Someone doesn't understand your opinions.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
An important letter becomes a vexation. A trumped-up story creates intolerance. Define your standards for a sad person.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Rearrange your expectations of authority. An amiable man jogs your memory. Someone plays second fiddle to a lazybones.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
A disagreement about privileges leads to changes. Get the facts straight or you'll make pathetic mistakes. Trust that things can be done quickly.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
A challenge results from a misunderstanding. Inspiration finds you some noisy supporters. You'll have a hair-raising adventure.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Try to get concessions from a virtuous person. Don't waste time or money. A failure can be a source of pleasure.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
Request help from ruthless people. Surprise a friend with a thoughtful remark. Don't get carried away with a stranger.

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
You should expect affection from a youthful person. Trust your feelings when you have complaints. Friendliness wins over a self-righteous loser.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
Try to wipe away your doubts. You'll be celebrating an excellent prospect. A friend's strange remarks will unnerve you.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
Don't refuse to admit overhearing a conversation. Someone is teasing a wishy-washy guy. A secret rendezvous will take its toll.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
Start the ball rolling, because success is nigh. A man in despair talks of world weariness. Someone's feelings are made of balsa wood.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
You know more than you're letting on about something. A confident person will contribute staying power. A dreamer comes out in the open.

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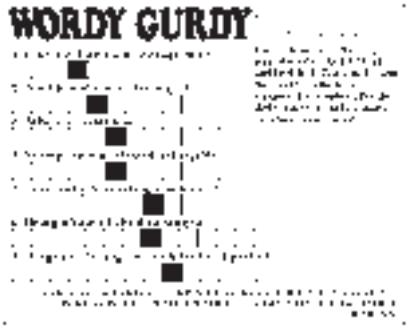
This day in history

SEPT. 17, 1630: The city of Boston, Massachusetts, is founded.
SEPT. 17, 1787: The United States Constitution is signed in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
SEPT. 17, 1814: Francis Scott Key finishes his The Star-Spangled Banner poem.
SEPT. 17, 1908: The Wright Flyer flown by Orville Wright, with Lieutenant Thomas Selfridge as passenger, crashes; killing Selfridge. He becomes the first airplane fatality.
SEPT. 17, 1956: Television was first broadcast in Australia.
SEPT. 17, 1976: The first Space Shuttle, Enterprise, was unveiled by NASA.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



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San Francisco 4-Star FROM **$499**
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London 3-Star FROM **$679**
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INCLUDES roundtrip airfare, 7 nights 4-star accom and a Kyoto & Nara day tour (Golden Pavillion, Todaiji). **UPGRADE** to 5-star accom and Hiei-Zan Enryaku-ji and the Experience of Zazen tour from $43 per night. **ADD** 4-day Japan Rail West with Sanyo Area pass from $201.

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